

SPIRIT OF THE MOUNTAIN CLUSTER

June 28/29, 2025

Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles (Year C)
Reverend Emmanuel Darfour Appah, Administrator



Saint Mary Catholic Church

109 Beech Ave., PO Box 1724
Coeburn, VA 24230
Saturday Vigil Mass 5 PM
Reconciliation Saturday 4:30 PM
Tuesday Weekday Mass July 1 - 5 PM

Saint Therese Catholic Church

16661 Wise St., PO Box 56
St. Paul, VA 24283
Sunday Mass 8:30 AM
Reconciliation Sunday After Mass

Good Shepherd Catholic Church

890 W Main St., PO Box 730
Lebanon, VA 24266-0730
Sunday Mass 11 AM
Reconciliation Sunday 10:30 AM
Wednesday Weekday Mass July 2 - 6 PM

CLUSTER CONTACT INFORMATION

Office Telephone: 1-276-889-1690
Office e-mail: office@spiritofthemountain.org
Website: <https://spiritofthemountain.org/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100078972283533>

SACRAMENTAL EMERGENCY CALL 1-804-631-9027

or eappah@richmonddiocese.org

Solemnity of St. Peter and St. Paul - Year C

Theme: "Grace Builds on Imperfection"

Today we celebrate two very different men who ended up walking the same road, the road of faith, of witness, of sacrifice. Peter and Paul were not perfect. In fact, their stories are marked with failure, weakness, and struggle. That is exactly why they speak to us today, because we, too, are imperfect people trying to follow Christ.

Peter was the one who often spoke before thinking, who promised loyalty but then denied Jesus three times. Paul was once a fierce persecutor of Christians, a man driven by zeal but blinded by pride. And yet, these two broken men became two of the greatest pillars of the Church. Not because they were flawless, but because they allowed Christ to change them. They allowed grace to do what pride and strength could not.

Peter teaches us that even after failure, Jesus still calls us. That even after denial, love can be renewed. When Jesus asked Peter, “Do you love me?” three times, He was not shaming him, He was restoring him. And then He entrusted him with something precious: “Feed my sheep.” That is what Jesus does with us too, He meets us in our mess, restores our dignity, and invites us to try again. To love again. To serve again.

Paul, on the other hand, teaches us that no one is beyond transformation. His story reminds us that grace can knock us off our horse, blind us, humble us, and then send us out with a new purpose. Once he encountered Christ, Paul never looked back. He gave everything, his words, his energy, his suffering, all for the sake of the Gospel. That same fire, that same urgency, is something we need today. People are hungry for truth, for hope, for real witness. We do not need to be perfect, but we do need to be faithful.

Peter and Paul, both show us that the Church is built not on human strength, but on faith. Faith that gets back up after it falls. Faith that learns, that grows, that speaks, that stands firm even when the cost is high. They remind us that following Jesus is not about having all the answers, it is about giving Him our whole hearts.

In a world where commitment is shaky, where faith is sometimes pushed to the margins, Peter and Paul still speak. They tell us: do not give up. Do not be afraid. Stay the course. And if you have fallen away, come back. Grace is stronger than failure. And God still calls ordinary people to do extraordinary things through Him.

Peace and Joy!

Readings for this Week (June 29-July 5, 2025)

29 JUNE SUN	Acts 12:1-11; Psalm 34; 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18; Matthew 16:13-19
30 JUNE MON	Genesis 18:16-33; Psalm 103; Matthew 8:18-22
01 JULY TUE	Genesis 19:15-29; Psalm 26; Matthew 8:23-27
02 JULY WED	Genesis 21:5, 8-20; Psalm 34; Matthew 8:28-34
03 JULY THU	Ephesians 2:19-22; Psalm 117; John 20:24-29
04 JULY FRI	Genesis 23:1-4, 19; 24:1-8, 62-67; Psalm 106; Matthew 9:9-13
05 JULY SAT	Genesis 27:1-5, 15-29; Psalm 135; Matthew 9:14-17

Next Sunday Readings – 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time - July 7, 2025

Isaiah 66:14; Psalm 66; Galatians 6:14-18; Luke 10:1-12, 17-20

Peter Pence Diocesan Collection. This weekend the **Peter's Pence Collection**, a worldwide collection that supports the work of the Universal Church, including the work of the Holy See and the charitable works of Pope Leo. Take this opportunity to join with Pope Francis to be a sign of mercy to our suffering brothers and sisters. Please be generous today.

CLUSTER PICNIC - July 6, 2025, SUNDAY, Noon, is the date set for our Cluster Picnic. The picnic will be in the large shelter at the back of the parking lot at the Lebanon Town Park (45 Gibson St, Lebanon, VA 24266). Games are planned along with bingo (if anyone has bingo prizes to donate, please bring them) and egg toss. The pool will be open. When you go into swimming just mention you are with the Cluster churches, and you will not have to pay. Also, there is a splash pad, pickleball court, corn hole board, soccer, and basketball goals. Of course, there will be plenty of tasty food. Hope to see you all there. **Sign up at your church** so we know the number to expect.

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS: "Serve one another through love." Does a life of prayer and service as a priest attract you? Call the Vocations Office, (804) 359-5661, or write to vocations@richmonddiocese.org to speak with Fr. Michael Boehling or Fr. Brian Capuano.

Last week, we shared with you the **Virginia Catholic Conference (VCC) parish vote report** for your parish. To help further contextualize the report, the VCC has prepared an infographic outlining the two-year process of attempting to amend the Virginia Constitution. The infographic is included with this bulletin.

Food Donations Good Shepherd Catholic Church continues to collect food from Cluster parishioners for the Lebanon Community Food Pantry. Thank you for your continued support.

LIBRARY – Spirit of the Mountain Cluster Library. Be sure to stop by the living room at Good Shepherd and pick out your books and/or CDs. All you want, **FREE** for the taking.

Congratulations to **St. Ann Catholic Church in Chesterfield, Virginia**, as they celebrate **100 years** of faith on Saturday, July 26. Our cluster parishioners received an invitation to join them on this milestone anniversary for their church. RSVP by July 4. Contact office for further details or see posted flyer and letter.

The Spirit of the Mountain Cluster and our Catholic Diocese of Richmond Bishop Knestout encourages anyone aware of sexual abuse of minors on the part of clergy or staff of our diocese to notify civil authorities, call the Attorney General's Clergy Abuse Hotline at 1-833-454-9064 and reach out to the

Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator at 1-877-887-9603, or email vac@richmonddiocese.org or visit the Diocese's Child Protection/Safe Environment page at <https://richmonddiocese.org/protecting-gods-children/>

SAINT MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

June 21 Offertory Collection \$ 625.00 **Attendance 15**

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR: Alton Lawson, Jr., Sister Stacey Hanrahan, Lillie Peters, Billy Hunsaker, Charles Bennett, and Bobby Kyle

July Birthdays: Rachael Bates (6), Alton Lawson, Jr. (22), Gregory Perry (24), Patty Nauss (27)

- **Invitations and signup sheets** have been sent to each of our Cluster Parishes for the August 2nd St. Mary's 70th Anniversary Mass and dinner to follow. Please sign up and celebrate with us. We hope several can come.

SAINT THERESE CATHOLIC CHURCH

June 22 Offertory Collection \$ 240.00 **Attendance 7**

June 22 Donation \$ 20.00

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR: Jackie White, James White, Brayn Whited, JoAnn Detta, and Rodney Altizer

July Birthdays: Angel David Cardenas (14), Bill White (20), Marty Huber (31)

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GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC CHURCH

June 22 Offertory \$1,079.00 **Attendance 29**

June 22 Votive Candles Offering \$ 2.00

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR: Valerie Christian, James White, Bob Dorton, JoAnn Detta, Jackie White, Phyllis Dotson, Sherry Hubbard, and Bill Taylor.

July Birthdays: Francisco Hernandez (12), Feliza Ruby Dorton/Maggie Lindvall (14), Ximena Castro (18), Carmenza Clark/Shyann Hubbard (30)

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