



SPIRIT OF THE MOUNTAIN CLUSTER

July 5/6, 2025

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

Reverend Emmanuel Darfour Appah, Pastor

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 8 - 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 9 - 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](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100078972283533)

SACRAMENTAL EMERGENCY CALL 1-804-631-9027

or eappah@richmonddiocese.org

Reflection for 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

Theme: “Ordinary People, Extraordinary Mission”

In today's Gospel, we see Jesus sending out seventy-two disciples in pairs, telling them to go ahead of Him, to bring peace, to heal, and to announce that the Kingdom of God is near. He sends them not with wealth, not with weapons, not even with extra sandals, just with faith, trust, and the power of peace. That is what makes this passage so relevant for us today. Because Jesus is still sending us out, ordinary people with ordinary lives, to be bearers of peace, healing, and hope in a world that is wounded, tired, and searching.

It is striking that Jesus sends them out in pairs. No one is sent alone. Because faith is not a solo journey. We need each other. We need community. We need companions who walk with us, challenge us, pray with us, and remind us of why we are doing this when things get hard. Whether it is marriage, friendship, parish life, or ministry, we are meant to share the journey. Isolation shrinks the heart, but community strengthens the soul.

Jesus also tells them something we are not always comfortable with: "Take no money bag, no sack, no sandals." In other words, do not rely on your own strength or your own safety net. Rely on Me. That is a hard thing to live, especially in a world where we like to be in control, where we measure success by what we have and what we achieve. But here Jesus is telling us that fruitfulness comes not from control, but from surrender. When we strip away the extras, the distractions, and the self-reliance, we create space for God to truly work in us and through us.

And then comes the mission: bring peace. Heal. Announce the Kingdom. That mission is ours too. Every conversation, every act of kindness, every moment of forgiveness, every effort to love when it is inconvenient, that is announcing the Kingdom.

Sometimes we think evangelization means standing on a street corner with a Bible. But really, it is about living in such a way that people can sense God is real, just by how we treat them.

Jesus tells them not everyone will welcome them. That is real life too. Some people will reject the peace we offer, the love we try to give. But He reminds them, and us, not to be discouraged. We are not responsible for how people respond. We are only responsible for being faithful. Plant the seeds. Speak the truth with love. Leave the rest to God.

At the end of it all, the disciples return full of joy, excited about what they saw and did. But Jesus gently reminds them: do not rejoice just because of success or visible results. Rejoice because your names are written in heaven. In other words, what matters most is not what we do for God, but who we are to God, His beloved, His chosen, His sent ones.

Peace and Joy!!

Readings for this Week (July 6-12, 2025)

06 JULY SUN	Isaiah 66:10-14; Psalm 66; Galatians 6:14-18; Luke 10:1-12, 17-20
07 JULY MON	Genesis 28:10-22; Psalm 91; Matthew 9:18-26
08 JULY TUE	Genesis 32:23-33; Psalm 17; Matthew 9:32-38
09 JULY WED	Genesis 41:55-57; 42:5-7, 17-24; Psalm 33; Matthew 10:1-7
10 JULY THU	Genesis 44:18-21, 23-29; 45:1-5, 19-22; Psalm 105; Matthew 10:7-15
11 JULY FRI	Genesis 46:1-7, 28-30; Psalm 37; Matthew 10:16-23
12 JULY SAT	Genesis 49:29-32; 50:15-26; Psalm 105; Matthew 10:24-33

Next Sunday Readings – 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time - July 13, 2025

Deuteronomy 30:10-14; Psalm 69; Colossians 1:15-20; Luke 10:25-37

Peter Pence Diocesan Collection. Thank you to those who gave generous support in last week's Peter's Pence Collection. As a cluster, we collected \$147 (St. Mary will have their collection at their July 5 Vigil Mass. Our contributions join those from our brothers and sisters worldwide to help Pope Leo in his ministry to the Universal Church, including relief to people in need and support for the Holy See. Visit www.usccb.org/peters-pence.

CLUSTER PICNIC – SUNDAY, July 6, 2025, at Noon the fun will begin. Our cluster picnic committee of **Betty Meade, Donna Bates, and Ruby Dorton** have been planning this event. Looking forward to seeing all our parishioners and friend have a good afternoon of fellowship. The picnic will at the large shelter behind the parking lot at the Lebanon Town Park (45 Gibson St, Lebanon, VA 24266). Behind First Bank & Trust. Bring bingo prizes if you can.

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS: “The harvest is abundant, but the laborers are few.” Are you called to be a laborer for Christ as a priest? Call the Vocations Office, (804) 359-5661, to speak with Fr. Matthew Kiehl, Vicar for Vocations; or write to vocations@richmonddiocese.org.

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.

JULY/AUGUST Word Among Us booklets are available at the back of the church.

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 28 Offertory Collection \$ 855.00 Attendance 18

June 28 Votive Candle Offerings \$ 11.00

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)

- **PETER’S PENCE second collection** will be taken up this Saturday, July 5, at Mass.
- **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 29 Offertory Collection	\$ 265.00	Attendance 16
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June 29 Donation **\$ 20.00**

Peter's Pence Collection **\$ 75.00**

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)

- 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.

GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC CHURCH

June 29 Offertory	\$ 191.00	Attendance 24
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Peter's Pence Collection	\$ 62.00
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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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