



SPIRIT OF THE MOUNTAIN CLUSTER

July 12/13, 2025

15th 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 15 - 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 16 - 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

Reflection for 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

Theme: "Love Has No Limits"

Sometimes we come to church looking for deep theology or complex teachings, and then Jesus tells a story so simple and so human that it hits us harder than any textbook ever could. That is what happens today with the story of the Good Samaritan. It is not complicated. A man is beaten and left for dead. Two people, religious people, walk right past him. And then someone you would least expect, a Samaritan, stops, helps, and goes above and beyond to care for him.

It is a story we have heard many times. But if we are honest, it is also a story that makes us uncomfortable. Because Jesus is not just telling us to "be nice." He is asking us to let love interrupt our plans. To let compassion stretch our comfort. And to stop walking past people who are hurting, not just on the road, but in our families, our neighborhoods, our workplaces, even in our pews.

Jesus tells this story in response to a question: “Who is my neighbor?” It is the kind of question we sometimes ask not because we want to do more, but because we want to do just enough. What is the minimum I have to do to be right with God? But Jesus flips the question. He does not say, “Here is your list of neighbors.” He says, “Be a neighbor.” That means it is not about waiting for the right situation or the right people. It is about living with open eyes and an open heart, every day.

What is most striking is that the hero of the story is not the priest or the Levite, the religious leaders. It is the Samaritan, someone who would have been seen as an outsider, even an enemy. Jesus is making a bold point: love is not limited by labels. It is not limited by religion, politics, race, or background. In the end, it is not the title we carry that matters, but the love we show.

We live in a world where it is easy to walk past suffering. We are busy. We are tired. Sometimes we are scared. But the challenge of today’s Gospel is to stop, to care, and to act, because love that stays in our heads or hearts but never reaches our hands does not mean much.

The Good Samaritan did not plan to be a hero that day. He was just someone who chose to love when it was inconvenient. And that is something all of us can do. Not once in a lifetime, but day by day, one person at a time. Jesus is asking us: Will you love like that?

Peace and Joy !!

CLUSTER PICNIC – **Thank you** to all who came out and enjoyed the day of fun and fellowship. Special thanks to **Betty Meade, Donna Bates, and Ruby Dorton**, our cluster picnic committee.

Diocesan Mission Cooperative Program. The weekend of **July 26-27**, our Pastor, Father Emmanuel will be traveling to Roanoke and visiting the **Basilica of Saint Andrew to carry a mission appeal.** In his absence Father Andrew Clark will celebrate the cluster Masses at all three parishes. Father Clark is newly ordained in 2025 and is the new parochial vicar at the Basilica. Please make Father Andrew feel welcome.

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/>