

## SPIRIT OF THE MOUNTAIN CLUSTER

April 19/20, 2025

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord (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

**NO Mass Tuesday April 23 Mass 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

**NO Wednesday April 24 Mass 6 PM**

### **CLUSTER CONTACT INFORMATION**

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Website: <https://spiritofthemountain.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100078972283533>

**SACRAMENTAL EMERGENCY CALL 1-804-631-9027**

or [eappah@richmonddiocese.org](mailto:eappah@richmonddiocese.org)

### **Reflection for Easter Sunday – Year C**

#### **Theme: "The Empty Tomb, the Full Promise"**

Alleluia! He is risen! Easter bursts into our lives like the morning sun breaking through a long night. The tomb is empty, but our hearts are full, full of wonder, hope, and the power of new life.

John's Gospel presents us with a beautiful, quiet moment: Mary Magdalene arriving at the tomb while it is still dark. She finds the stone rolled away and runs to tell Peter and John. There is no angelic announcement yet, no risen Jesus in sight, just an absence. But even that absence begins to stir faith.

The Beloved Disciple enters, sees the burial cloths, and believes. What did he see? Not just emptiness, but the sign that death had been defeated. That God had done the impossible. That Jesus, who suffered and died, now lives.

Easter is more than a single event; it is a divine turning point. In the Resurrection, God transforms the greatest sorrow into eternal joy, and the worst defeat into glorious victory. It is the ultimate reminder that nothing, not even death, has the final word.

This Easter, we are invited to look into the empty tomb of our own lives: the places where hope once seemed lost, where pain lingers, where we have stopped expecting God to move. Easter says: “Even here, Christ lives. Even now, God is doing something new.”

Let us be people of resurrection, not only today but every day, carrying the light of Easter into a world still waiting for dawn.

Peace and Joy!!

#### **Readings for this Week (April 20-26, 2025)**

20 APR SUN	Acts 10:34, 37-43; Psalm 118; Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-9
21 APR MON	Acts 2:14, 22-23; Psalm 16; Matthew 28:8-15
22 APR TUE	Acts 2:36-41; Psalm 33; John 20:11-18
23 APR WED	Acts 3:1-10; Psalm 105; Luke 24:13-35
24 APR THU	Acts 3:11-26; Psalm 8; Luke 24:35-48
25 APR FRI	Acts 4:1-12; Psalm 118; John 21:1-14
26 APR SAT	Acts 4:13-21; Psalm 118; Mark 16:9-15

#### **Next Sunday Readings – 2nd Sunday of Easter or Sunday of Divine Mercy – APRIL 27, 2025**

**Acts 5:12-16; Psalm 118; Revelation 1:9-11-13, 17-19**

#### **Good Friday & Easter Weekend Schedule**

**April 18 Good Friday 11 AM Stations – St. Mary, Coeburn**

**10 AM Stations – Good Shepherd, Lebanon**

**2:30 PM Stations – St. Therese, St. Paul**

**3 PM Good Friday of the Lord's Passion Service – St. Therese**

**April 19 Holy Saturday 7:30 PM Easter Vigil in the Holy Night of Easter -- St. Mary**  
followed by refreshments

**April 20 Easter Sunday 8:30 AM** The Resurrection of the Lord Mass of Easter Day at St. Therese, St. Paul

**April 20 Easter Sunday 11 AM** The Resurrection of the Lord Mass of Easter Day at Good Shepherd, Lebanon

**REMINDER: GOOD FRIDAY, April 18, is a day of Fast and Abstinence.** **Fasting** is to be observed by all 18 years of age and older, who have not yet celebrated their 59th birthday. On a fast day one full meal is allowed. Two other meals, sufficient to maintain strength may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and juices are allowed. **Abstinence** is observed by all 14 years of age and older. On days of abstinence no meat is allowed. Note that when health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige. When in doubt concerning fast and abstinence, the parish priest should be consulted.

**RICE BOWLS** may be **RETURNED** at any time in the next two weeks. You may write a check for the amount or just place box in the collection basket with your change. **PLEASE** be sure to put **your name** on the box.

**2025 Annual Diocesan Appeal – Sharing His Love with Others. A message from Father Emmanuel:** Over the past couple of months, I hope you have gained an understanding of what it means to support the 2025 Annual Diocesan Appeal. Yes, our parish is a direct beneficiary, however, supporting the Appeal is also about supporting the Catholic Church beyond the parish. For example, did you know that the Appeal:

- Helps supply groceries as well as heating, rent and shelter assistance to children, families in need and the elderly across the Diocese.
- Expands opportunities for college students to deepen their commitment to the Catholic Church.

If you have not yet made a commitment, I hope you will join me in helping to not only meet but exceed this year’s goal!

Please visit [richmondcatholicfoundation.org/appeal](http://richmondcatholicfoundation.org/appeal) to make a secure online donation or visit our parish office for a hard copy pledge card. Thank you for partnering with us on this important ministry of our Catholic Church

	St. Therese	St. Mary	Good Shepherd
<b>2025 Appeal Goal</b>	<b>\$ 630</b>	<b>\$ 1,760</b>	<b>\$ 2,230</b>
<b>Number of Donors</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Amount Raised</b>	<b>\$ 2,060</b>	<b>\$ 2,667</b>	<b>\$ 4,125</b>

(continued)	<b>St. Therese</b>	<b>St. Mary</b>	<b>Good Shepherd</b>
<b>% to Goal Raised</b>	<b>327%</b>	<b>152%</b>	<b>185%</b>
<b>Amount Collected</b>	<b>\$ 755</b>	<b>\$ 2,667</b>	<b>\$ 2,325</b>
<b>Recurring Gift Projection</b>	<b>\$ 1,305</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 1,800</b>

**40 Days for Life. Dear Area Christians:** We thank all of the volunteers who faithfully pray for an end to abortion at home and on the street. We thank God for those who have been praying for decades and for the new people who joined our spring vigil. Fighting this spiritual battle is indeed a team effort and all of our prayers and sacrifices make a difference. With Gratitude, Angie Bush (Bristol 40 Days for Life leader)

Dear Prayer Warriors:

Thank you for all of your prayers and sacrifices during these 40 Days. Below is a glimpse of what God has done during our spring vigil.

Compared to the fall vigil, we doubled the number of participants. We had:

- at least 126 participants (72 praying at the vigil site, and 54 at home)
- prayer warriors from at least 20 different Christian churches
- people praying at the vigil site everyday!!
- 26/40 days at least four hours of public prayer recorded
- 38 NEW people praying at home & at the vigil site.

In addition to these numbers, here are some other highlights:

- One prayer warrior was able to reach out and pray with a troubled father. Woman from UK stopped to pray with us before heading to the airport. One of our at home prayer warriors offered the last moments of her life for the unborn. . We doubled our pre-organized prayer group opportunities (Thank you!!). More youth involved

Our next 40 Days for Life vigil will begin in September. Between now and then, please know that I am praying for you. And, again, thank you for the many ways you bless others with your prayers and sacrifices.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.”—Matthew 5:6

Your sister in Christ, Angie Bush

**Food Donations** continue to be collected by the Cluster for the Lebanon Community Food Pantry. Thank you for your continued support.

**CLUSTER PICNIC - SAVE THE DATE:** 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). Planned games are corn hole, bingo, word games, egg toss. If you can bring bingo gifts that would be appreciated. The pool will be opened and free. When you go to the pool, just tell the pool manager the

church you are from and you will not have to pay. If you have a problem, check with Betty Meade.

**PRAY FOR VOCATIONS:** “The Lord is truly risen!” Are you being called to proclaim the Lord’s resurrection 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](mailto:vocations@richmonddiocese.org).

**Catholic Community Foundation of the Diocese of Richmond’s topic today is:** How you can use your IRA to make a Qualified Charitable Contribution (QCD) to the parish. · As Christian stewards, we share the responsibility of making our Church a true community of faith and a vibrant source of service to the larger community. That includes providing financial support for today's needs -- and building a firm financial foundation for tomorrow. If you are 70 ½ years old or older, you can make a Qualified Charitable Distribution up to \$108,000 from your IRA directly to your parish. ·

**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](mailto:vac@richmonddiocese.org) or visit the Diocese’s Child Protection/Safe Environment page at <https://richmonddiocese.org/protecting-gods-children/>**

**SAINT MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH**

<b>April 12 Offertory Collection</b>	<b>\$ 706.00</b>	<b>Attendance 21</b>
<b>April 12 Votive Candle Offering</b>	<b>\$ 7.00</b>	
<b>April 12 Donation</b>	<b>\$ 50.00</b>	
<b>April 11 Friday Offertory</b>	<b>\$ 150.00</b>	
<b>April 11 Votive Candle Offering</b>	<b>\$ 18.00</b>	
<b>April 14 Rice Bowl Offering</b>	<b>\$ 110.50</b>	

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

- **Refreshments will be served after the Holy Saturday, April 19, 7:30 PM Easter Vigil.**
- **There will be NO WEEKDAY MASS Tuesday, April 15, at 5 PM.**

- We have **"Save the Date" cards** to invite family and friends to **St. Mary's 70th Anniversary Celebration to be held on August 2 at 5 PM**. If you would like to send some to your family and/or friends, please see Donna after Mass. We will have a sheet for you to put the names and addresses of those whom you plan to send a "Save the Date" card. Then you can pick up the cards to complete and mail. We are looking forward to having lots of family and friends to celebrate with us in August!
- **May Crowning of Mary. May 3 at 5 PM Vigil Mass.** Rosary as a spiritual bouquet for Our Lady will be recited after 5 PM Tuesday Masses during May.

### **SAINT THERESE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

<b>April 13 Offertory Collection</b>	<b>\$ 191.00</b>	<b>Attendance 8</b>
<b>April 13 Donation</b>	<b>\$ 500.00</b>	

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

**April Birthdays:** Therese Fields (25)

- Stations of the Cross **April 18**, Good Friday, at 2:30 PM followed by **Good Friday of the Lord's Passion Service**.

### **GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC CHURCH**

<b>April 13 Offertory</b>	<b>\$ 568.00</b>	<b>Attendance 30</b>
<b>April 13 Votive Candles Offering</b>	<b>\$ 4.02</b>	
<b>April 11 Friday Collection</b>	<b>\$ 36.00</b>	<b>Attendance 6</b>
<b>April 11 Votive Candles Offering</b>	<b>\$ 2.00</b>	
<b>April 11 Designated Donation</b>	<b>\$ 1,680.00</b>	

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

**April Birthdays:** Karla Castro (2), Kevin Christian (7), Giovanni Hernandez (14), Dalton Christian (17)

- **Good Friday, April 18, Friday 10 AM, Stations of the Cross** will be recited. There will be no 6 PM Stations and Mass on April 18.
- **APRIL 27 Sunday** will be our next **parish meal** – please sign up at the back of church.
- **Lector Schedule:** April 20 and 27 – Frank Taylor  
May 3 and 11 – Janice Halsey  
May 18 and 25 – Cathy Stiltner