



## **SPIRIT OF THE MOUNTAIN CLUSTER**

**April 26/27, 2025**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter (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 April 29 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

**Wednesday April 30 Mass 6 PM**

### **CLUSTER CONTACT INFORMATION**

Office Telephone: 1-276-889-1690

Office e-mail: [office@spiritofthemountain.org](mailto: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](mailto:eappah@richmonddiocese.org)

### **Reflection for Divine Mercy Sunday Year C**

**Theme: “From Fear to Faith: Mercy Meets Us Where We Are”**

On this Second Sunday of Easter, the Church invites us to linger in the glow of the Resurrection and contemplate the boundless mercy of God. The doors of the upper room were locked, not just physically, but symbolically. The disciples were trapped in fear, grief, and guilt. And yet, Jesus came and stood among them, offering not condemnation, but peace.

“Peace be with you.” These are the first words of the Risen Christ to His broken, frightened friends. Not, “Where were you?” Not, “Why did you run?” But peace. Forgiveness. Mercy. Jesus comes not to reopen old wounds, but to heal them.

Then there is Thomas, honest, questioning, and often misunderstood. His doubts mirror our own struggles to believe in what we cannot see or fully understand. And yet, Jesus does not scold him. Instead, He invites Thomas to come closer: “Put your finger here... do not be unbelieving, but believe.” Divine Mercy is not distant or abstract; it is personal, patient, and gentle. It meets us right where we are.

Pope St. John Paul II, who established this feast, called Divine Mercy “the Easter gift the Church receives from the risen Christ and offers to humanity.” In a world burdened by wounds, bitterness, and doubt, God’s mercy is the healing we did not know we needed and the love we could never earn but always receive.

Let this Sunday be more than a celebration, let it be a reminder that no door is too locked, no doubt too deep, no sin too great for the mercy of God. He comes into our fears and failures, not to shame us, but to say: “Peace be with you.”

Jesus, I trust in You !

**Readings for this Week (April 27-May 3, 2025)**

27 APR SUN	Acts 5:12-16; Psalm 118; Revelation 1:9-11-13, 17-19; John 20:19-31
28 APR MON	Acts 4:23-31; Psalm 2; John 3:1-8
29 APR TUE	Acts 4:32-37; Psalm 93; John 3:7-15
30 APR WED	Acts 5:17-26; Psalm 34; John 3:16-21
01 MAY THU	Acts 5:27-33; Psalm 34; John 3:31-36
02 MAY FRI	Acts 5:34-42; Psalm 27; John 6:1-15
03 MAY SAT	1 Corinthians 15:1-8; Psalm 19; John 14:6-14

**Next Sunday Readings – 3rd Sunday of Easter – May 4, 2025**

Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19

**Sunday of Divine Mercy:** Saint Maria Faustyna Kowalska, popularly spelled "Faustina", a Polish Catholic religious sister had apparitions of Jesus Christ which inspired the Catholic devotion to the Divine Mercy. Thanks to Saint Mary parishioner David Nauss you may wish to enter the site below on your browser and watch free THE FACE OF MERCY, which the Knights of Columbus put out.

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLApgT5DUXIlw9-m30V3-4wT3cZ4bpsJAE&si=-hV0WFeG3H5YbyKy>

**THANK YOU to all who helped, decorated, attended, and participated in the Holy Weeks services.**

**2025 Annual Diocesan Appeal – Sharing His Love with Others.** The purpose of the 2025 Annual Diocesan Appeal is to fund ministries which one parish cannot support alone. When we come together, we are able to educate all our seminarians, provide hundreds of thousands of dollars in grants to help those in need with basic necessities, and conduct the programs designed to build the next generation of Catholics.

When you step back and look at the Appeal’s case for support of not just these ministries but many others, it is amazing to realize the impact that each of us has on moving our Church forward.

YOUR gift matters.

Please visit [richmondccatholicfoundation.org/appeal](http://richmondccatholicfoundation.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>
<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>

**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.

**40 Days for Life:** On Wednesday, April 30 at 7:00 pm, St. Dominics in Kingsport will be hosting a speaker who will tell her story of reconciliation after abortion. See flyer for details.

**PRAY FOR VOCATIONS:** “Were not our hearts burning within us, ...” Do you feel a calling of the Holy Spirit to serve the Lord in the 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.

**Catholic Community Foundation of the Diocese of Richmond’s topic today.** When you make a gift of a distribution from your IRA to your parish, it allows you to demonstrate a legacy of love for Christ and His Church. If you’re over 70 ½, making a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) to our parish from your IRA can also save on taxes. To make a Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA, contact parish staff with questions.

**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/>**

<b><u>SAINT MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH</u></b>		
<b>April 19 Offertory Collection</b>	<b>\$ 435.00</b>	<b>Attendance 24</b>
<b>April 12 Votive Candle Offering</b>	<b>\$ 217.00</b>	
<b>April 14 Rice Bow. Offering</b>	<b>\$ 110.50</b>	

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

**MAY Birthdays:** Teresa O’Donnell (6)

- 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 Mases during May.
- There will be a **Finance Council meeting after this April 26 Saturday’s Vigil Mass.**

**SAINT THERESE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

April 20 Offertory Collection	\$ 38.00	Attendance 8
April 19 Good Friday Collection	\$ 100.00	

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

**MAY Birthdays:** Connie Molinary (12), David Fields (24).

- There will be a Finance Council meeting this Sunday, April 27, after Mass.
- Beginning next Sunday May 4 at 8 AM the rosary will be recited each Sunday during the month of May.
- Our first Sunday of the month **breakfast** will follow our 8:30 Mass **next Sunday, May 4.**
- St. Therese Parish has received SAVE THE DATE for **St. Mary's 70th Anniversary Celebration to be held on August 2 at 5 PM.**

**GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC CHURCH**

April 20 Offertory	\$ 727.00	Attendance 43
April 20 Votive Candles Offering	\$ 26.00	
April 20 Rice Bowl Donations	\$ 180.00	
April 19 Donation	\$ 100.00	

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

- **TODAY** after Sunday Mass all are welcome to join us downstairs for our monthly **parish meal.**
- SAVE THE DATE has been received by our parish for **St. Mary's 70th Anniversary Celebration to be held on August 2 at 5 PM.** The invitation is posted on the bulletin board at the back of the church.
- Beginning next Sunday May 4, the rosary will be recited at 10:30 AM before Mass. This will continue each Sunday during the month of May.
- A **parish council meeting** is scheduled for next **Sunday, May 4** immediately following Mass.
- **Lector Schedule:** April 27 – Frank Taylor  
May 3 and 11 – Janice Halsey  
May 18 and 25 – Cathy Stiltner

**MAY IS MARY'S MONTH:**

For centuries, the Catholic Church has set aside the entire month of Mary to honor Mary, Mother of God. Not just a day in May, mind you, but the entire month.

It's common for parishes to have a daily recitation of the Rosary during May. Additionally, it's a long-standing tradition to crown the statue of Mary during May – a custom known as May Crowning. Often, the crown is made of beautiful blossoms representing Mary's beauty and virtue. It's also a reminder to the faithful to strive to imitate our Blessed Mother's virtue in our own lives. May Crowning, in some areas, is a huge celebration and is usually done outside of Mass, although Mass may be celebrated before or after the actual crowning.