



SPIRIT OF THE MOUNTAIN CLUSTER

May 3/4, 2025

3rd 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 May 6 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 May 7 Mass 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 the 3rd Sunday of Easter Year C

Theme: “Restored by Love”

There is something tender and deeply human in today's Gospel. The disciples have returned to what they knew, fishing. Maybe they are unsure of what to do next. Maybe they are carrying shame and failure. Peter, especially, must still feel the sting of denying Jesus. And then at dawn Jesus appears on the shore.

He does not come with fire from heaven or thunder from the skies. He comes quietly, humbly, standing by the water, asking a simple question: “Children, have you caught anything?” It is almost as if He is saying, “How are you really doing?”

They do not recognize Him at first, not until He fills their nets and their hearts with a sense of grace. And when Peter realizes it is Jesus, he does not wait. He jumps into the water and runs toward Him. That is what love does, it does not calculate, it does not hold back. It moves.

And then comes the most personal moment: Jesus draws Peter aside and asks, not once, but three times: “Do you love me?” It is not to embarrass him or shame him. It is to heal the three wounds of his denial with three declarations of love.

Jesus is not looking for perfect people, He is looking for hearts willing to love again. To try again. To follow, even after failure.

This Gospel reminds us: No matter how far we have drifted, the Risen Lord waits on the shore of our lives, ready to feed us, forgive us, and call us forward. He does not bring up the past to condemn us. He brings it up to redeem it.

He meets us where we are but never leaves us where we were.

Today, let His voice speak to your heart: “Do you love Me?” And if you say yes, even a hesitant yes, He says, “Then follow Me. I still choose you.”

Peace and Joy!!

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

04 MAY SUN	Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19
05 MAY MON	Acts 6:8-15; Psalm 119; John 6:22-29
06 MAY TUE	Acts 7:51-8:1; Psalm 31; John 6:30-35
07 MAY WED	Acts 8:1-8; Psalm 56; John 6:35-40
08 MAY THU	Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 66; John 6:44-51
09 MAY FRI	Acts 9:1-20; Psalm 117; John 6:52-59
10 MAY SAT	Acts 9:31-42; Psalm 116; John 6:60-69

Next Sunday Readings – 4th Sunday of Easter – May 11, 2025

Acts 13:14, 43-52; Psalm 100; Revelation 7:9, 14-17; John 10:27-30

2025 Annual Diocesan Appeal – Sharing His Love with Others

	St. Therese	St. Mary	Good Shepherd
2025 Appeal Goal	\$ 630	\$ 1,760	\$ 2,230
Number of Donors	5	6	8
Amount Raised	\$ 2,510	\$ 2,667	\$ 4,125
% to Goal Raised	398%	152%	185%
Amount Collected	\$ 1,330	\$ 2,667	\$ 2,450
Recurring Gift Projection	\$ 1,180	\$ 0	\$ 1,675

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: “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.

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

April 26 Offertory Collection **\$ 710.00** **Attendance 14**

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 Masses during the month of May.
- **Thank you** to those who stayed after Mass last Saturday for our council meeting

SAINT THERESE CATHOLIC CHURCH

April 20 Offertory Collection **\$ 180.00** **Attendance 10**

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

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

- Thanks to all who attended last Sunday's council meeting.
- Beginning this Sunday May 4 at 8 AM the **rosary will be recited each Sunday during the month of May.**
- First Sunday of the month **breakfast** will follow our 8:30 Mass this weekend, **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. Put it on your calendar please.**

GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC CHURCH

April 27 Offertory **\$ 487.00** **Attendance 20**

April 27 Votive Candles Offering **\$ 3.00**

April 27 Rice Bowl Donations **\$ 20.00**

Diocesan Home Missions (May 25) **\$ 20.00**

Donations received this week **\$ 500.00**

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

- **TODAY** after Sunday Mass the **parish council will meet.**
- **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. Please place this date on your calendar and plan to attend.
- **REMINDER:** This Sunday May 4, the rosary will be recited at 10:30 AM before Mass. This will continue each Sunday during the month of May.
- **MEAL sign-up** for May 18 at the back of the church.
- **Lector Schedule:** May 4 and 11 – Janice Halsey
May 18 and 25 – Cathy Stiltner
June 1 and 8 – Dave Britten.