



SPIRIT OF THE MOUNTAIN CLUSTER

May 10/11, 2025

4th 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 13 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 14 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 Good Shepherd Sunday Year C

Theme: “The Voice That Knows Us”

“My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me.” These words from Jesus are not just poetic, they are deeply personal. In a world filled with noise, opinions, pressure, and confusion, this Gospel is an invitation to listen again for the one voice that truly matters: the voice of the Shepherd.

There is something comforting about being known, truly known. Not for what we do, or how we look, or what we achieve, but for who we are. And Jesus says, “I know them.” He knows your struggles. Your fears. The things you are proud of but also the things you would rather keep hidden. And still, He calls you His own.

The image of the Good Shepherd is tender but also fiercely protective. He walks ahead, guiding His sheep, not driving them. He does not lose track of the ones who wander or dismiss the ones who limp. His love is both strong and gentle.

And He says something remarkable: “No one can take them out of my hand.” Let that sink in. In seasons of doubt, when life feels uncertain or when we feel unworthy, we are still held, tightly, lovingly in the hands of Christ. Nothing can snatch us away. Not fear. Not failure. Not even our own mistakes.

But like sheep, we have to listen. We have to tune our hearts to His voice, the one that leads to life, not anxiety. To peace, not pressure. To grace, not guilt.

This Sunday, take a moment to ask: Whose voice am I listening to? Is it the voice of the Shepherd, or the voice of the world, of fear, of discouragement?

The Shepherd is calling. Gently. Faithfully. Constantly. And all He asks is this: “Follow Me.”

Peace and Joy!!

Readings for this Week (May 11-17, 2025)

11 MAY SUN	Acts 13:14, 43-52; Psalm 100; Revelation 7:9, 14-17; John 10:27-30
12 MAY MON	Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 42 and 43; John 10:1-10
13 MAY TUE	Acts 11:19-26; Psalm 87; John 10:22-30
14 MAY WED	Acts 1:15-17, 20-26; Psalm 113; John 15:9-17
15 MAY THU	Acts 13:13-25; Psalm 89; John 13:16-20
16 MAY FRI	Acts 13:26-33; Psalm 2; John 14:1-6
17 MAY SAT	Acts 13:44-52; Psalm 98; John 14:7-14

Next Sunday Readings – 5th Sunday of Easter – May 18, 2025

Acts 14:21-27; Psalm 145; Revelation 21:1-5; John 13:31-35

HAPPY BLESSED MOTHER’S DAY to all our ladies. We remember all of the special women in our lives that have been there for us through thick and thin. We remember with prayer especially those mother figures we have lost. Without the immense sacrifices of the one we call MOM; we might not even be in this beautiful world today. Thank you, Mothers, everywhere.

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS: . “Sing joyfully to the LORD ...; serve the LORD with gladness.” Are you discerning a vocation as priest? Call the Vocations Office, (804) 359-5661, to speak with Fr. Matthew Kiehl, Vicar for Vocations; or write to vocations@richmonddiocese.org.

2025 Annual Diocesan Appeal – Sharing His Love with Others. A Message from Father Emmanuel. I want to provide a brief update on our 2025 Annual Diocesan Appeal Cluster

Parishes. I am pleased to tell you that all three of our parishes have exceeded their targets. It is my hope that every household in our parish contributes to this year's effort. If you have not yet made a commitment, I hope you will join me in helping to not only exceed this year's goal but have 100% parishioner participation.

Please visit richmondcatholicfoundation.org/appeal to make a secure online donation or visit our parish office for a hard copy pledge card. Every gift, no matter the amount, makes a difference.

Thank you very much for your prayerful consideration of support. God bless

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

Food Donations Good Shepherd Catholic Church continue to collect food from Cluster parishioners 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.

ENDOWMENT. May 29, 6 PM, is the date for our parishioners (Finance Councils especially) to learn more about supporting their parish to provide for future generations. An endowment fund can accomplish that mission. Please **SAVE THE DATE and TIME –May 29 at 6 PM**. Mark your calendar to learn more about this beneficial investment opportunity offered by our Diocese. More details to follow.

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

May 3 Offertory Collection	\$ 635.00	Attendance 19
70 th Celebration Donation	\$ 500.00	

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

MAY Birthdays: Teresa O'Donnell (6)

- Rosary will be recited after the Saturday Vigil Mass during the month of May.
- 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!

SAINT THERESE CATHOLIC CHURCH

May 4 Offertory Collection	\$ 207.00	Attendance 9
May 4 Donations	\$ 100.00	

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

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

- REMINDER: The **rosary will be recited each Sunday during the month of May at 8 AM.**
- 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

May 4 Offertory	\$ 1,221.00	Attendance 23
May 4 Votive Candles Offering	\$ 4.00	

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 **finance 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 11-J. Halsey May 18/25-C. Stiltner June 1/8-D. Britten.