



SPIRIT OF THE MOUNTAIN CLUSTER

May 17/18, 2025

5th 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 20 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 May 21 Mass

CLUSTER CONTACT INFORMATION

Office Telephone: 1-276-889-1690

Office e-mail: office@spiritofthemountain.org

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

Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100078972283533)
[profile.php?id=100078972283533](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100078972283533)

SACRAMENTAL EMERGENCY CALL 1-804-631-9027

or eappah@richmonddiocese.org

5th Sunday of Easter Year C

Theme: “Love That Looks Like Jesus”

Just hours before His suffering and death, Jesus speaks some of the most tender and powerful words to His disciples: “Love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another.”

This is not just advice or encouragement. It is a command. And not just any kind of love — not polite love, not convenient love, not love that waits until others deserve it but Christ’s love. A love that serves. A love that forgives. A love that kneels to wash feet and stretches out arms on the cross.

Jesus is telling us: This is how the world will know you belong to Me. Not by how well you preach, or how loudly you worship, or how many church events you attend — but by how you love. That is the real proof of discipleship.

And let us be honest: this kind of love is not always easy. It means loving people who are hard to love. Forgiving when we do not feel like it. Choosing kindness over being right. It means loving when we are tired, when we have been hurt, or when it costs us something.

But here is the truth: we can love like Jesus because we have been loved by Jesus. He does not just command this love; He fills us with it. Every act of mercy, patience, or compassion we offer is simply His love flowing through us.

So, if you feel worn out, discouraged, or unsure how to love someone in your life right now, bring that to Jesus. Ask Him to love through you. He will.

Peace and Joy!!

Readings for this Week (May 18-24, 2025)

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

19 MAY MON Acts 14:5-18; Psalm 115; John 14:21-26

20 MAY TUE Acts 14:19-28; Psalm 145; John 14:27-31

21 MAY WED	Acts 15:1-6; Psalm 122; John 15:1-8
22 MAY THU	Acts 15:7-21; Psalm 96; John 15:9-11
23 MAY FRI	Acts 15:22-31; Psalm 57; John 15:12-17
24 MAY SAT	Acts 16:1-10; Psalm 100; John 15:18-21

Next Sunday Readings – 6th Sunday of Easter – May 25, 2025
 Acts 15:1-2 22-29; Psalm 67; Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23; John 14:23-29

MAY 24/25 NEXT WEEKEND Second Diocesan Collection for Diocesan Home Missions. Our cluster parishes have benefited from Home Mission grant funds over the years. Envelopes are available at the back of the church.

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.

Everyday Evangelization - New Podcast & Column. Ther staff in the Office for Evangelization continues to provide advice and insight into evangelizing in one’s daily life through The Catholic Virginian. You can find those articles at <https://evangelizerichmond.org/>. Additionally, there are podcast discussions of these topics now available on **Spotify**, just search for “Everyday Evangelization.” We hope they are of use to you!

June 10 and 11 an Annulment Seminar/Retreat with Diocesan personnel at Abingdon’s Jubilee House. RSVP for Tuesday, Wednesday or both days wjoyce@stannes-bristol.org. Hoping to get as many people as possible, and to allay all concerns and answer all questions regarding the annulment process. One on one discussions available. See bulletin attachment.

The Office for Black Catholics invites you to join us on an online **Reflection on the eve of Juneteenth (June 18)** with Dr. Ansel Augustine, Assistant Director of African American Affairs at USCCB. This event will be free to attend and be held virtually through Microsoft Teams. Please share this with your parish. If interested follow this link <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/juneteenth-why-we-celebrate-tickets-1349947071029?aff=oddttdtcreato>

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.

August 2 – 70th Anniversary Celebration at St. Mary, Coeburn 5 PM Mass.

Discipleship Week. August 6-9, 2025. Richard Bland College, Petersburg. Each parish is encouraged to invite 1-3 teens to apply for Discipleship Week, a 4-day retreat for post-Confirmation 11th & 12th graders who are looking for more as they continue to follow Jesus and serve their parishes; day 4 of the retreat has the D-Week teens put what they learn into

action at EPIC. Returners are welcome to apply; based on our venue space, we will have a track this year for second-time D-Week teens. Applications are open . at <https://evangelizerichmond.org/>

Recent Graduate Retreat. August 22-23, 2025. Saint Michael, Richmond. College graduates in the classes of 2024 and 2025 are invited to attend our Recent Graduate Retreat. Join other recent grads as we help guide you through the questions you may have: How do I find a parish? Where can I find Catholic young adults like me? What do I do with the skills I learned from my campus ministry. There will be time to hear talks, opportunity for prayer and reflection, and a chance to build community with other young adults. Register at <https://evangelizerichmond.org/>

Pre-Catholic Fest Young Adult Mixer. Friday, October 10. Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Richmond. SAVE THE DATE! Young adults from all corners of the diocese are invited to a night of fellowship and prayer to kick off Catholic Fest. Appetizers, music, keynote, and night prayer - prepare socially and spiritually for the next day's fun at The Diamond. All those between 18-30 (and out of high school) are encouraged to attend. Registration will be open soon!

Catholic Fest - October 11, 2025 The Diamond, Richmond. Join Bishop Knestout and the entire diocese at a one-day festival in Richmond. The day will be full of music, food, fun, fellowship, faith, and celebrating the Mass as the Diocese of Richmond. Visit our website to learn more! <https://evangelizerichmond.org/>

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS: “Love one another.” “By this everyone will know that you are My disciples.” How will you manifest your discipleship? Consider living the Lord’s new commandment of love 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.. “

2025 Annual Diocesan Appeal – Sharing His Love with Others. A Message from A Message from Fr. Emmanuel. Over the past few months, I hope you have gained an understanding of what it means to support the 2025 Annual Diocesan Appeal. Yes, our cluster 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:

- Supplements health insurance and long-term care for our priests who have given their lives in service to the Church.
- Develops lay catechetical leaders by building theological understanding, shaping pastoral skills, and strengthening Catholic identity.

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 to make a secure online donation or contact church office (276-889-1690) for a hard copy pledge card (copies at the back of Good Shepherd Church). Thank you for partnering with us on this important ministry of our Catholic Church.

	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	\$ 4,425
% to Goal Raised	398%	152%	198%
Amount Collected	\$ 1,390	\$ 2,667	\$ 2,828
Recurring Gift Projection	\$ 1,120	\$ 0	\$ 1,600

June Word Among Us booklets are available.

May monthly financial reports emailed to parishioners. Call office if you did not receive.

relevant radio leaflets at back of church. Free ever-growing national FREE national network of live and interactive programs.

Food Donations Good Shepherd Catholic Church continues to collect food from Cluster parishioners for the Lebanon Community Food Pantry. Thank you for your continued support.

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 10 Offertory Collection	\$ 535.00	Attendance 22
May 10 Donation	\$ 100.00	
May 10 Votive Candles Offering	\$ 35.00	

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 11 Offertory Collection	\$ 210.00	Attendance 9
May11 Donations	\$ 500.00	

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.

GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC CHURCH

May 11 Offertory	\$ 477.00	Attendance 17
May 11 Votive Candles Offering	\$ 5.00	

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

- Parish meal today immediately after Mass – all are welcome. NOTE: Thank you on bulletin board from **Tim and Mary Beth Ward** warmly welcomed to our April meal.
- **REMINDER:** The rosary will be recited at 10:30 AM before Mass during month of May.
- **Lector Schedule:** May 18/25-C. Stiltner June 1/8-D. Britten June 15/22-F. Taylor