



SPIRIT OF THE MOUNTAIN CLUSTER

May 24/25, 2025

6th 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 27 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 28 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

6th Sunday of Easter Year C

Theme: “Peace That Holds You Together”

Let us be honest—how many of us are truly at peace?

Most of us are carrying something: stress about work, worry about family, uncertainty about the future, or just that quiet, nagging feeling that we are not doing enough or being enough.

And then Jesus steps into that messiness and says: “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.”

This is not the kind of peace that comes from a quiet vacation or a weekend off. It is not the peace we try to create by having control over everything in our lives. Jesus is offering us a peace that holds us together when everything else feels like it is falling apart. What is beautiful is that He offers this peace while the disciples are about to face the hardest moment of their lives, His death. He knows they will be afraid, confused, even broken. And still, He says: I am leaving you peace. Not escape. Not ease. But a deep, lasting calm that comes from knowing He is with us—and we are not alone.

He also says something very tender: “Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.” Think about that. God wants to make His home in you. Not when you have gotten it all together. Not when you feel extra holy. But right now. As you are.

So, here is the real question: Where do you need that peace right now? What is weighing on your heart that you have not let Him hold with you?

This week, take a few quiet minutes and sit with that promise. Ask Jesus, honestly, from where you are: “Lord, I want Your peace. I need it. Make Your home in me.” You do not have to have perfect faith or the right words. Just the willingness to let Him in. Because real peace, the kind Jesus gives, is not the absence of trouble. It is the presence of Someone who will never leave you.

Peace and Joy!!

TODAY we welcome **William Yeaerout**, a Seminarian with the Diocese’s of Richmond. He attended UVA at Wise and came into the church at St. Anthony’s in Norton. Willaim is from Floyd, VA. We are happy to have him here until August 4. Please welcome him and help him make our cluster this his home for the summer.

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

25 MAY SUN	Acts 15:1-2 22-29; Psalm 67; Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23; John 14:23-29
26 MAY MON	Acts 16:11-15; Psalm 149; John 15:26-16:4
27 MAY TUE	Acts 16:22-34; Psalm 138; John 16:5-11
28 MAY WED	Acts 17:15, 22-18:1; Psalm 148; John 16:12-15
29 MAY THU	Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47; Ephesians 1:17-23; Luke 24:46-53
30 MAY FRI	Acts 18:9-18; Psalm 47; John 16:20-23
31 MAY SAT	Zephaniah 3:14-18; Isaiah 12:2-6; Luke 1:39-56

Next Sunday Readings – The Solemnity of The Ascension of the Lord – May 25, 2025

Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47; Ephesians 1:17-23; Luke 24:46-53

This WEEKEND May 24/25 we will take up a Second Diocesan Collection for Diocesan Home Missions. Our cluster parishes have most definitely benefited from or Diocese’s Home Mission grant funds received 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 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=oddttdcreato>

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. Bingo gifts would be appreciated. The pool will be opened and free. When you go to the pool, tell the pool manager the church you are from, and you will not have to pay. If a problem, please check with Betty Meade.

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

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: "Whoever loves me will keep my word." Are you called to bring the word of Christ to his flock? 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. 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 to all who gave to the 2025 Annual Appeal helping us to meet and exceed our goals.

	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.

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.

Budgets for our cluster Churches **Fiscal Year 2026** (July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026) have been completed and reviewed by the Church Finance Councils. If you would like a copy, please contact the church office (276-889-1690).

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 17 Offertory Collection \$ 590.00 **Attendance 10**
May 17 Donation \$ 150.00 **May 17 Votive Candles Offering \$ 15.00**
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**. See Donna after Mass if you would like some cards. There will be a sheet to put the names and addresses of those whom you plan to send a "Save the Date" card. You can then pick up cards to complete and mail. We look forward to having lots of family/friends to celebrate with us in August!

SAINT THERESE CATHOLIC CHURCH

May 18 Offertory Collection \$ 95.00 **Attendance 10**
May 18 Donations \$ 550.00
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 18 Offertory \$ 635.00 **Attendance 17**
May 18 Votive Candles Offering \$ 5.00 **May 18 Donation \$ 300.00**
May 18 Diocesan Home Mission Collection \$ 20.00
PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR: Valerie Christian, James White, Bob Dorton, JoAnn Detta, Jackie White, Phyllis Dotson, Sherry Hubbard, and Bill Taylor

- **CONGRATULATIONS** to Giovanni Hernandez who graduated from high school last Sunday afternoon AND Charlie Sapp who graduated from preschool Friday, May 23.
- **Seth Dorton** is working on his **Eagle Scout project** by collecting money to buy toys for children at Niswonger Children’s Hospital in Johnson City, TN.
- **REMINDER:** The rosary will be recited at 10:30 AM before Mass during month of May.
- **Lector Schedule:** May 25-C. Stiltner June 1/8-D. Britten June 15/22-F. Taylor