



## **SPIRIT OF THE MOUNTAIN CLUSTER**

**May 31/June 1, 2025**

**Solemnity of The Ascension of the Lord (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 June 3 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 June 4 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)

### **Ascension Sunday – Year C Reflection**

#### **Theme: “Why Are You Still Looking Up?”**

The Ascension of Jesus is one of those moments that can feel both majestic and mysterious. We imagine the disciples standing there, eyes fixed on the sky, watching their friend, teacher, and Savior rise into the clouds and then... silence. Stillness. Even a little confusion.

And then the angels ask them, “Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking up at the sky?” It is a strange question. Of course they were looking up! Jesus had just left them, wouldn’t you?

But the deeper point is this: Jesus may have ascended, but the mission continues here on earth. He had just reminded them: “You are witnesses of these things.” Not spectators. Not passive admirers. Witnesses. Which means: Go. Live it. Share it. Be the proof that love wins.

The Ascension is not about Jesus leaving us behind. It is about Him lifting us up, inviting us into a bigger purpose. And before He ascended, He made a promise: “You will be clothed with power from on high.” In other words, You are not doing this alone.

Maybe today you feel like one of those disciples, caught in the in-between. Missing something. Looking up for answers, direction, comfort. That is okay. We all have moments like that.

But the angels' message still rings true: Do not just look up, look around. Look around at the people who need hope. Look within at the Spirit already working in you. Look ahead at the mission Christ left in your hands.

The Ascension is not the end of the story; it is the start of ours. Jesus returns to the Father so that we can be His presence in the world. His hands. His voice. His heart. Let us not stand still. Let us not get stuck staring at the clouds, waiting for someone else to fix the world. Jesus has already given us what we need, His Spirit, His peace, His power.

Now, we live like it matters. We love like He did. We go because He sends us.

Peace and Joy!!

**Readings for this Week (June 1-7, 2025)**

01 JUNE SUN	Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47; Ephesians 1:17-23; Luke 24:46-53
02 JUNE MON	Acts 19:1-8; Psalm 68; John 16:29-33
03 JUNE TUE	Acts 20:17-27; Psalm 68; John 17:1-11
04 JUNE WED	Acts 20:28-38; Psalm 68; John 17:11-19
05 JUNE THU	Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; Psalm 16; John 17:20-26
06 JUNE FRI	Acts 25:13-21; Psalm 103; John 21:15-19
07 JUNE SAT	Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; Psalm 11; John 21:20-25

**Next Sunday Readings – The Solemnity of Pentecost – June 8, 2025**

Acts 2:1-11; Psalm 104; 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13; John 20:19-23

**Diocesan Collection for Diocesan Home Missions.** Thank you to all who generously gave to the second collection last weekend.

**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).

**THANK YOU** to those who attended the Cluster on-line Diocesan presentation last Thursday evening on endowments. We appreciated Pastoral Staff Margaret Keightley and Veronica Scholle taking their time to explain the programs of the Catholic Community Foundation. It is hoped all will view the recording and give prayerful consideration on how the endowment program may be of benefit to the future of our local parishes.

**June 10 and 11 Annulment Seminar/Retreat** with Diocesan personnel at Abingdon’s Jubilee House. RSVP for Tuesday, Wednesday or both days [wjoyce@stannes-bristol.org](mailto: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.

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=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. 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 – 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration at St. Mary, Coeburn 5 PM Mass.**

**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:** “Go and teach all nations, says the Lord.” Do you feel a calling to be a teacher of the Word as a priest or consecrated religious? Call the Vocations Office, (804) 359-5661, to speak with Fr. Matthew Kiehl, Vicar for Vocations; or write to [vocations@richmonddiocese.org](mailto:vocations@richmonddiocese.org).

**Priesthood Ordinations** will be held at the Cathedral in Richmond on Saturday, **June 7, 2025,** at 10:30 AM. This will be to celebrate the anticipated ordinations of Deacon Andrew Clark, Deacon Samuel Hill, and Deacon Matthew Kelly. For those unable to the ordination in person, they may access the livestream at <https://richmonddiocese.org/livestream/>

**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 contact the 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	\$ 4,725
% to Goal Raised	398%	152%	212%
Amount Collected	\$ 1,515	\$ 2,667	\$ 3,250
Recurring Gift Projection	\$ 995	\$ 0	\$ 1,475

**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](mailto:vac@richmonddiocese.org) or visit the Diocese's Child Protection/Safe Environment page at <https://richmonddiocese.org/protecting-gods-children/>**

**SAINT MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH**

<b>May 24 Offertory Collection</b>	<b>\$ 845.00</b>	<b>Attendance 12</b>
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<b>Diocesan Home Missions Collection</b>	<b>\$ 2.00</b>
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**PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR:** Alton Lawson, Jr., Sister Stacey Hanrahan, Lillie Peters, Billy Hunsaker, Charles Bennett, and Bobby Kyle.

- 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**

<b>May 25 Offertory Collection</b>	<b>\$ 108.00</b>	<b>Attendance 11</b>
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**Diocesan Home Missions Collection      \$ 93.00**

**MASS INTENTION: Repose of the soul of + Alan White.**

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

- Parish breakfast after Mass this Sunday, June 1.

**GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC CHURCH**

<b>May 25 Offertory</b>	<b>\$ 344.00</b>	<b>Attendance 26</b>
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<b>May 25 Votive Candles Offering</b>	<b>\$ 5.00</b>
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**Diocesan Home Mission Collection**      \$ 67.00

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

**JUNE Birthdays:** Blanca Cervantes (9), Jorge Figueiras (19), Alex Zachwieja (21), Collin Sapp (22), Charlie Sapp (23).

## JUNE Anniversary: Bob & Ruby Dorton (1)

- **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. Seth has held a car wash in Bristol. If anyone would like to give him a donation, please see him after Mass.