



Mass Intentions
Fourth Sunday of Easter
May 2nd ~ May 8th, 2020

5/2 SATURDAY VIGIL:

Fourth Sunday of Easter
Ken Strong

5/3 Fourth Sunday of Easter

Week End of Hope Cancer Survivors
and the People of the Parish
Jaroslava Wolf

5/4 MONDAY

Tat Family

5/5 TUESDAY

Mary Ann Dillon

5/6 WEDNESDAY

Karen Bishop Balog

5/7 THURSDAY

Poor Souls in Purgatory

5/8 FRIDAY

Intentions of Lillian Coppola

**PRAYER FOR MAY, THE MONTH
OF THE VIRGIN MARY**

Mother of love, of sorrow and of mercy, pray for us. Remember, O Virgin Mother of God, when thou shalt stand before the face of the Lord, that thou speak favorable things in our behalf and that He may turn away His indignation from us. Thou art my Mother, O Virgin Mary: keep me safe lest I ever offend thy dear Son, and obtain for me the grace to please Him always and in all things. Amen

Dear Parishioners,

Since we are in May, the month of Mary, I am going to use these next 4 bulletin inserts to briefly teach about the 4 Marian Dogmas. What's a dogma? Good question. A dogma in the Catholic Church is a truth revealed by God, which the Magisterium of the Church has declared as binding, meaning that the faithful are obliged to accept as infallible. The 4 Marian Dogmas are her (1) Divine Motherhood, (2) Perpetual Virginity, (3) Immaculate Conception, and (4) Assumption.

Mary's Divine Motherhood was defined in the year 431 at the Council of Ephesus, when a heretical viewpoint posed that Mary only gave birth to the humanity of Jesus, and sometime after he was born, then divinity descended upon Him. This denies the reality of the Incarnation, the Eternal Word of God becoming flesh, without which we cannot be saved. The Divine Motherhood of Mary is Christological in its origin as it helps us understand that contained within the Virgin Mary's womb is God, whom the universe itself cannot contain. Jesus is fully God and fully man, and Mary gave birth to Him in whose very person the two natures – Divine and Human – not only coexist but are united.

In fact, the Church Fathers understood the womb of the Virgin Mary through the mystical lens as the bridal chamber where the "wedding" that united Divinity and Humanity took place in the person of her Son. Thus, she was called, Θεοτόκος, (Theotokos) or God-bearer. "Mary, the all-holy ever-virgin Mother of God, is the masterwork of the mission of the Son and the Spirit in the fullness of time. For the first time in the plan of salvation and because his Spirit had prepared her, the Father found the dwelling place where his Son and his Spirit could dwell among men. In this sense the Church's Tradition has often read the most beautiful texts on wisdom in relation to Mary. Mary is acclaimed and represented in the liturgy as the "Seat of Wisdom." In her, the "wonders of God" that the Spirit was to fulfill in Christ and the Church began to be manifested," (CCC 721).

Remember to pray the Rosary throughout May as a way to honor the Blessed Mother and welcome her intercession and her presence both into our homes and into our hearts. God bless you and may you have a grace-filled week.

With Mary
In Jesus,

Fr. Jon

Virtual Stowe Weekend of Hope

May 1-3, 2020 is The Virtual Stowe Weekend of Hope for cancer survivors, their loved ones, and anyone who is interested. The full exciting program is found on the website stowehope.org.

For 19 years Stowe Weekend of Hope has brought together approximately 450 cancer survivors from the United States and Canada providing education, support, and networking with a focus on wellness and survivorship. You will find a wide variety of presentations, activities, and information on the website along with information of how to navigate through the weekend. Learn and enjoy through Zoom and livestream.

A highlight of the weekend is the Interfaith Candlelight Service on Saturday, **May 2, at 7:30 pm sponsored by the Greater Stowe Interfaith Coalition.**

Please join us for this interfaith service which is one of the most poignant elements of the weekend. Through singing, sharing, and memorial candle lighting, those gathered will honor cancer survivors and remember those lost to cancer. Available live on Zoom at stowehope.org

If you wish to continue to keep up with your weekly offertory during the church closure, you can mail it to Blessed Sacrament Church, P.O. Box 27, Stowe, VT 05672

Also, you can make a one time donation or monthly offertory on E-Giving, just contact Phyllis via email (blessedsacrament@vermontcatholic.org) to sign up or call the parish office (messages are checked frequently). On our website (bscvt.com) you can also donate through paypal. Thank you so much for your generosity!

Please check our Facebook page for updated information and resources.

ONLINE BOOK CLUB DEBUTS "THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS"

A love of books compelled Marci Hayes of Our Lady of Good Help Church in Brandon and her 13- year-old daughter to join an online book club sponsored by the Diocese of Burlington.

"A story has a unique ability to span time and connect the reader to the author as well as with all of those who have ever read the story. I found this to be true during the book club," she said of the weekly April online gatherings to discuss "The Screwtape Letters" by C. S. Lewis.

The book club was born during the Covid-19 pandemic when Michael Hagan, manager of religious education and catechesis for the diocese, sought a fun way to form a community, learn about the Catholic faith and share faith journeys.

"Through reading a 75-year-old tale, I joined others in conversation, prayer and fellowship. I most enjoyed witnessing how a story can bring a community and families together," Hayes said.

Tricia Sulva of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Charlotte has participated in a variety of classes and presentations that Hagan has offered. "He is wonderful at offering insight into the particular topic, and I always come away with a richer understanding of our faith," she said. "This [book club] offered an opportunity to still be able to come together as a community and as a way to deepen my faith."

There were about 20 participants in the free weekly online gatherings; they joined from throughout Vermont and from Florida and California.

"A faith-based book club can be a fun and low-pressure form of Christian accompaniment. Books tend to have a unique way of influencing our spiritual lives," Hagan said. "As we enter into new characters, stories and worlds, we begin to ask questions that we might not have asked before. A book club allows us to share those insights and questions with other people who are reading the same book on the same journey of faith."

Sulva said this opportunity "to engage with others way beyond our own backyard is amazing."

She continued, "Experiencing this online event has heightened my awareness that there are people everywhere who I can share my love for God and our beautiful faith with. For me this is extremely comforting. And it fills me with greater hope."

For information on future book clubs, go to vermontcatholic.org.

To support this ministry, go to bishopsappealvt.org.

VTC • Cori Fugere Urban