



**Mass Intentions**  
**The Ascension of the Lord**  
**May 23<sup>rd</sup> ~ May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**5/23 SATURDAY VIGIL:**

*The Ascension of the Lord*  
*Anne & Herbert Arnold*

**5/24 The Ascension of the Lord**

*The People of the Parish*  
*Carolyn Tierney*

**5/25 MONDAY**

*June Hresko*

**5/26 TUESDAY**

*Ed & Carol Markey*

**5/27 WEDNESDAY**

*Giovanna & Franco Toffolo*  
*Father Charles Okeke - Odogwu*

**5/28 THURSDAY**

*Intentions of Crystal Edmondson*

**5/29 FRIDAY**

*Leo & Blanche Duperre*

Here's the Live stream links for this week's Masses from Blessed Sacrament and Most Holy Name of Jesus. Father Jon will be the celebrant.

Ascension Thursday

- [https://youtu.be/bL\\_xindZKls](https://youtu.be/bL_xindZKls)

Most Holy Name Saturday Mass

- <https://youtu.be/osmkwDFFeGs>

Blessed Sacrament Sunday Mass

- [https://youtu.be/LG4jjoTn\\_k8](https://youtu.be/LG4jjoTn_k8)

Dear Parishioners,

*This weekend as we move towards the end of May, one of the two months we dedicate to Mary, we'll conclude by considering the 4<sup>th</sup> Marian Dogma – Mary's Assumption into heaven, body and soul, at the end of her earthly life.*

*This is the most recent Dogma officially pronounced by the Church (1950), and sometimes can be confused with the Ascension of Jesus into heaven 40 days after He rose from the dead (what we celebrated last Thursday). The distinction is an important one – Jesus ascended into heaven as a sign of His divine power, while Mary was assumed into heaven by the power and grace of God.*

*The Dogma, which articulates a belief that is part of the Church's patrimony and has been held by the faithful for centuries, states that "Mary, the Immaculate Mother of God, after finishing the course of her earthly life, was taken body and soul to heavenly glory." Although this Dogma is not specifically mentioned in scripture, it is implied based on the contents of the deposit of faith.*

*In reality, Catholicism is a faith based on faith and reason, and so the Assumption of Mary is the logical conclusion of her life, her vocation, and her faithfulness to God. "Being through, with, and for her Son while on earth, it follows that she would be through, with, and for her Son in heaven" (CNA). While their hearts were united by profound mystery in the earthly realm, they are now united by profound glory in the heavenly realm – always united.*

*Some questions are not answered by the Church because we cannot know: did Mary experience death at the end of her life, or just fall asleep and was assumed? Did her body and soul separate at any time through the process? These are open for theological speculation.*

*This Dogma helps clarify an often misunderstood reality about heaven. In heaven, we will have bodies – there will be a physical component to the heavenly state of being. When Jesus ascended into heaven, His body went with Him. When Mary was assumed, her body went with her. So too, at our resurrection, our bodies will follow us into eternity, yet in a different form than we have currently.*

*Life after death is real – and the love that binds us in this life does not unravel in death, but rather it becomes drawn up into the great love that God has for all his people. Mary’s love for her Son, and her love for each of us, continues in her maternal intercession for all the members of the Church, which is why we instinctually go to her as our Mother. For from her place in heaven, she prays for each of us.*

With Mary  
In Jesus,

Fr. Jon

**Mass intentions available throughout 2020. If anyone would like a Mass intention for deceased, living or some who is ill. Please contact Phyllis via email at [blessedsacrament@vermontcatholic.org](mailto:blessedsacrament@vermontcatholic.org) or contact the office at 253-7536. They all come with beautiful cards and we will mail them out for you or leave them at the parish center mailbox. There are many dates available.**

## CATHOLIC CEMETERIES

Peter Beauregard, director of facilities and Catholic cemeteries for the Diocese of Burlington, has direct responsibility for the diocesan cemetery, Resurrection Park in South Burlington, but he also offers support to 74 parish cemeteries throughout Vermont.

“Support of the parish cemeteries includes the sharing of best practices in the areas of services offered, accounting and property maintenance,” he explained, adding that cemeteries are eligible for the annual SafetyFirst grant program that can be used to repair, implement or improve safety concerns.

It is important to place the Catholic cemetery within the Catholic burial tradition. That tradition flows out of fundamental tenets of the Catholic faith that include:

the dignity of each individual human person;  
the importance of Baptism into the faith;  
the reality of the resurrection of Jesus Christ;  
the promise of Jesus that His followers will share eternal life;  
the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass uniting us to the Cross and our expression of adoration, thanksgiving, petition and supplication.

The operation of a Catholic cemetery ministry should support each of these tenets.

“Our Catholic cemeteries are blessed and consecrated grounds not unlike our churches,” Beauregard said. “Maintaining them to the best of our ability is an outward sign that we are thankful for what we have been given.” Mowing the grass controls the pest and weeds from taking over and keeping the grass at a two- to-three-inch height helps control the moisture of the soil. Maintenance of the monuments and their foundations ensures that the stones are stable and unlikely to fall over. Proper tree maintenance includes visual inspections to identify decay that can weaken a tree causing it to fall in high winds, damaging headstones and endangering visitors.

The maintenance of the cemeteries includes lawns, fences, trees, hedges, stone walls, ponds, roadways, pathways, water systems, storage buildings and machinery.

Beauregard estimated that there are 1,200 burials annually in the cemeteries he deals with, but that number could change because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

“Catholic cemetery grounds are consecrated and an extension of the Church,” he said “They are adorned with special Christian symbols, monuments and structures that make visiting them a holy and serene experience.”

For more information on Catholic cemeteries, go to [vermontcatholic.org/about/finance/cemeteries](http://vermontcatholic.org/about/finance/cemeteries).

The Bishop’s Annual Appeal supports the oversight of several Catholic cemeteries and guidance for all Catholic cemeteries in Vermont. To make a donation, go to [bishopsappealvt.org](http://bishopsappealvt.org).

*VTC • Cori Fugere Urban*