

EASTER VIGIL AND EASTER SUNDAY GUIDE FOR “AT HOME PARTICIPATION”

Introduction and Welcome

Usually we begin the Easter Vigil surrounding a large fire where we turn to the Paschal Candle and light it from the fire. It is then carried into a darkened church followed by all participants. The light then spreads throughout the darkened church illuminating it from the one source as it is passed from person to person.

If using this guide on Easter Sunday, the Exsultet is omitted and there are the usual Readings. The Gloria is part of the beginning of Mass, as it normally is. The Renewal of Baptismal Promises does take place on Easter Sunday.

This year, the fire is omitted and the Paschal Candle is already lighted and in its place next to the ambo, or lectern, where the Word of God is proclaimed. The “blessing” of the Candle takes place by the very words of the “Exsultet” which is an ancient proclamation of the Light of Christ entering into the world through His Resurrection.

FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN –

If able, you are invited to light a candle at home, as this prayer is changed, extinguishing it after it ends.

You may want to use your or your child’s baptismal candle and even help your child light his or her own candle and set it on a stand for this prayer.

(New candles are always available through the parish offices at a later date.)

SERVICE OF LIGHT

Exsultet is proclaimed

SERVICE OF THE WORD

On this night there are multiple readings from the Old Testament that tell of our salvation history and how the children of God journeyed through the centuries until the Messiah was born.

Three of these readings are mandated which tell of the most important events in history, however, we will proclaim all of them this evening. After each reading, a response is sung, which is the same for each, so you will be able to pick it up and join in if you wish, but then, using an ancient form of proclaiming God’s word, a prayer summarizing the reading is done.

Glory to God in the Highest

The Gloria is now sung as we cross the threshold from the Old Testament to the New Testament. We join the angels who sang of God’s Glory at the birth of Jesus, this is why it is located here in the Liturgy of the Word in the proper place in history.

Gospel

The Resurrection of Christ is proclaimed as it is also a threshold from this world to the next; everlasting life through resurrection from the dead.

Homily

Renewal of Baptismal Promises

Normally, Baptism is celebrated at this point in the Easter Vigil, however, because these initiation sacraments are being delayed, all are invited to renew their own baptism. If you wish, you may want to light or re-light your candles that were used at the beginning of this service.

If you agree with the question, state so with an "I do."

Presider: Do you reject sin, so as to live in the freedom of God's children?

All: I do.

Presider: Do you reject the glamour of evil, and refuse to be mastered by sin?

All: I do.

Presider: Do you reject Satan, father of sin and prince of darkness?

All: I do.

Presider: Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth?

All: I do.

Presider: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died,
and was buried, rose from the dead,
and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?

All: I do.

Presider: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

All: I do.

Presider: God, the all-powerful Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit,
and forgiven all our sins.

May he also keep us faithful to our Lord Jesus Christ
for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

The Easter Vigil & Easter Sunday

Universal Prayer

As usual, we pray for the needs of the world in this Universal Prayer of the Faithful

The response after each is sung:

**“God ever-faithful, God ever-merciful,
God of our people, hear our prayer.”**

The rest of the Mass continues as usual until Communion when the Prayer for a Spiritual Communion is done.

My Jesus,

I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things,

and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,

come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there

and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

Dismissal-Sung

V. Go in the peace of Christ, alleluia, alleluia.

R. Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia.

Thank you to all who have participated in preparations for these holy day's services.

With the extension of the “Stay at home” orders, Sunday Mass will continue to be broadcast on the radio and live streamed on Sundays at 10am.