

Adapted Catholic family Easter Vigil for at home

This is an adaptation of the Easter Vigil for those who are unable to attend the vigil at their parish. While virtually attending the Easter Vigil Mass is a great option, it may be too long for some, especially with young children. You can, instead, hold your own "vigil" at home, reading these prayers and blessings together as a family. I suggest reading through this entire document to decide if there are any parts you wish to skip or if you will use videos in the place of some of the readings or prayers.

You will need (if you have them):

- fire pit / metal pan
- wood to burn
- lighter
- candle (your own Paschal Candle if you made one)
- if possible (candles for everyone in the family)
- holy water (if you have some)
- computer (for the optional videos)

DIRECTIONS

Blessing of the Fire

Turn lights out in the house. Gather together outside. Make a small fire in a fire pit / metal pan. If you cannot make a fire outside, here is a good option to make an indoor smokeless fire if you don't have a fireplace - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oMn5OkbhNmk>

Make the sign of the cross – **In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

When the fire is lit, sprinkle the fire with Holy Water if you have some at home. Otherwise have everyone extend their hands over the fire (or towards the fire) & pray:

O God, who through your Son bestowed upon the faithful the fire of your glory, sanctify this new fire, we pray, and grant that, by these paschal celebrations, we may be so inflamed with heavenly desires, that with minds made pure we may attain festivities of unending splendour. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Light your candle from the fire praying:

May the light of Christ rising in glory dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

Procession

An adult (or older child) holds up the lit Easter candle and says or chants “The Light of Christ” and all respond “Thanks be to God”. Then each person lights their candle from the Easter candle. All process into the house to the prayer table / home altar. The procession can take place before the lighting of the candles if preferred.

Easter Proclamation (A part of the Exultet)

All stand, holding their lighted candles. This very shortened part of the Exultet may be read or you may wish to follow the video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S4Ytyy2apLg>

Leader: *The Lord be with you. And with your spirit.*

On this, your night of grace,
O holy Father,
accept this candle, a solemn offering,
the work of bees and of your servants' hands,
an evening sacrifice of praise,
this gift from your most holy Church.

Therefore, O Lord,
we pray you that this candle,
hallowed to the honour of your name,
may persevere undimmed,
to overcome the darkness of this night.

Receive it as a pleasing fragrance,
and let it mingle with the lights of heaven.
May this flame be found still burning
by the Morning Star:
the one Morning Star who never sets,
Christ your Son,
who, coming back from death's domain,
has shed his peaceful light on humanity,
and lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

Your Easter / Paschal candle should remain lit for the remainder of your vigil. Individual candles can also remain lit if you wish.

Liturgy of the Word

Reading from a children's Bible is preferable for a vigil with young children or watching short videos of the bible stories. The following 2 videos together are a good option to take the place of the seven Old Testament readings. If there is to be only one reading, it should be the Gospel story.

God's Story: Preparing for Jesus <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=67HqiVGt6xl> (a 4-minute video including the story of Creation, Abraham & Moses)

God's Story: The Prophets <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sumaXbjP2Kg&t=47s>

First reading - The story of creation (Genesis 1.1 – 2.2)

Second reading - Abraham is put to the test (Genesis 22:1-18)

Third reading – Moses parts the red sea (Exodus 14:15-31)

Fourth reading – (prophet) Isaiah 54: 5-14

Fifth reading – (prophet) Isaiah 55: 1-11

Sixth reading – (prophet) Baruch 3: 9-15, 32- 4:4

Seventh reading – (prophet) Ezekiel 36: 16 – 28

Epistle – Romans 6:3-11

Gospel reading – Matthew 28: 1-10 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l5mmnFu1l3U> The Very Best Morning – Animated Easter Story based on Matthew 28: 1-10

Baptismal Liturgy

Litany of Saints

Have someone lead the litany of saints or sing along with the video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zer3KCCHSUl>

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,

Saint Michael,

Holy Angels of God,

Saint John the Baptist,

Saint Joseph,

pray for us.

pray for us.

pray for us.

pray for us.

pray for us.

Saint Peter and Saint Paul,	pray for us.
Saint Andrew,	pray for us.
Saint John,	pray for us.
Saint Mary Magdalene,	pray for us.
Saint Stephen,	pray for us.
Saint Ignatius of Antioch,	pray for us.
Saint Lawrence,	pray for us.
Saint Perpetua and Saint Felicity,	pray for us.
Saint Agnes,	pray for us.
Saint Gregory,	pray for us.
Saint Augustine,	pray for us.
Saint Athanasius,	pray for us.
Saint Basil,	pray for us.
Saint Martin,	pray for us.
Saint Benedict,	pray for us.
Saint Francis and Saint Dominic,	pray for us.
Saint Francis Xavier,	pray for us.
Saint John Vianney,	pray for us.
Saint Catherine of Siena,	pray for us.
Saint Teresa of Jesus,	pray for us.
All holy men and women, Saints of God,	pray for us.

Lord, be merciful,	Lord, deliver us, we pray.
From all evil,	Lord, deliver us, we pray.
From every sin,	Lord, deliver us, we pray.
From everlasting death,	Lord, deliver us, we pray.
By your Incarnation,	Lord, deliver us, we pray.
By your Death and Resurrection,	Lord, deliver us, we pray.
By the outpouring of the Holy Spirit,	Lord, deliver us, we pray.

Be merciful to us sinners,	Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.
Jesus, Son of the living God,	Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.

Christ, hear us.	Christ, hear us.
Christ, graciously hear us.	Christ, graciously hear us.

Renewal of Baptismal Promises

Either have a leader ask the questions or follow the video and everyone personally responds to each question - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3h-pEo_PM6E

Dear brothers and sisters, through the Paschal Mystery we have been buried with Christ in Baptism, so that we may walk with him in newness of life. And so, now that our Lenten observance is concluded, let us renew the promises of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and his works and promised to serve God in the holy Catholic Church. And so I ask you:

Do you renounce Satan? I do.

And all his works? I do.

And all his empty show? I do.

Do you renounce sin, so as to live in the freedom of the children of God? I do.

Do you renounce the lure of evil, so that sin may have no mastery over you? I do.

Do you renounce Satan, the author and prince of sin? I do.

Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth? I do.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered death and was buried, rose again from the dead and is seated at the right hand of the Father? I do.

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? I do.

And may almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and bestowed on us forgiveness of our sins, keep us by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord, for eternal life. Amen.

Blessing with holy water

If you have holy water at home either sprinkle everyone with the holy water or have everyone bless themselves with the holy water. If you have no holy water at home, make the sign of the cross.

Prayers of the Faithful

The following intentions are suggestions only. Your family may start with these and include your own or just pray your own intentions.

Response - Lord, hear our prayer.

For the Church, joyful witness to the resurrection of the Lord, we pray to the Lord: R.

For the world's nations and people, to whom Christ's resurrection offers the fullness of God's peace, we pray to the Lord: R.

For those baptized this night into Christ's death and resurrection, called as Christ's body to witness to the Good News, we pray to the Lord: R.

For Christian communities everywhere, embodying the triumph of life over death in their neighbourhoods and cities, we pray to the Lord: R.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Pray together the Our Father.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father,
who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
Amen.

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world. Have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world. Have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world. Grant us peace.

Act of Spiritual Communion

Then each person should make an act of Spiritual Communion. You can recite the words or pray along with a video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pt3E-YnZs30>

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.

Solemn Blessing

May almighty God bless us through today's Easter Solemnity and, in his compassion, defend us from every assault of sin. Amen.

And may he, who restores us to eternal life in the Resurrection of his Only Begotten, endow us with the prize of immortality. Amen.

Now that the days of the Lord's Passion have drawn to a close, may we who celebrate the gladness of the Paschal Feast come with Christ's help, and exulting in spirit, to those feasts that are celebrated in eternal joy. Amen.

And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, come down on us and remain with us for ever. Amen.

Dismissal

Let us go in peace. Alleluia. Alleluia. Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

End by giving one another a sign of peace.