



HOLY SATURDAY – PRAYER SERVICE 2020

Introduction

On Holy Saturday, the Church waits at the Lord's tomb in prayer, fasting, meditating on his Passion and Death, and awaiting his Resurrection. There is no Holy Mass until the Solemn Vigil in the Evening of Holy Saturday. The Vigil opens the Easter Time which ends with the Pentecost Sunday.

The Holy Saturday Vigil is called "the mother of holy vigils", and it is also the time when the Church celebrates the Sacraments of Initiations to accept through Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist the Catechumens as new members of the Church. Here I would like to assure all the Catechumens who are waiting for this moment, that the time of freedom of gathering in the worship will come, you will be welcomed with joy into the Catholic Church communities.

This Holy Saturday Vigil we will proclaim the joy that Jesus who was death, is risen now, and he will be with us always.

We will sing, pray the Song of Joy – Exsultet.

As a Christian people we do Rejoice, for Christ is risen from the dead and his light banishes all traces of darkness.

Through this vigil celebration of the Liturgy of Light, listening to Word of God that is showing how God accompanied the People from Creation to coming of Jesus, to bring them to the fullness of life now and in the eternity, you will go on the pilgrimage of faith to meet the Risen Lord.

If time permits, read each of these readings in your own Family Celebration of Holy Saturday. Each of these readings highlights God's love for God's people and helps us to celebrate Christ's resurrection by recalling God's saving action. You can also choose some reading from old testament, including Exodus 14:1 – 15:1 and new testament – Letter of St Paul to Roman (Romans 6:3-11) and the Gospel according to Mathew 28:1-10.

Ritual at Home

The rules for The Easter Vigil clearly state that the celebration must take place in the night and end before dawn, for the contrasts between darkness and light are essential in our parish churches. But in our Family situation you will see when you can gather together as Family to pray together. If possible, you can start just after sunset, to experience the new light of the Candle and Jesus as Risen Lord, the Light of World.

The celebration begins with a Service of Light and you need to prepare the candles, as well the place for the celebration. If you have a bigger candle at your home, use it as the main candle and all family members could have also own small candles. Choose as well who is presiding the prayers, reading of the readings from the Bible/Lectionary.

If possible the lighting of the candle and first prayers could be done outside of the house, as we do it in our parish churches. The light in the house should/could be stitched off.

PRESIDER:

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Opening Prayer: We gather this night as the Family to rejoice in Jesus Christ, the Light of the World, the One whom no darkness can overcome, the One, death cannot destroy. We ask you Jesus, our Light to enlighten us gathered at this vigil prayer, you are the Beginning, the Alpha and the end, the Omega, all the times and places belongs to you. We entrust to your Love and Mercy our Family to protect us from all danger we could experience in our life. Bless us and our candles we light now to enlighten our ways of life.

Now, the main candle is lighted.

The presider raise it up and says: **The Light of Christ!**

All respond: **Thanks be to God!**

All move in silence towards the home, before entering, the presider raises the candle up and proclaims: The Light of Christ!

All respond: **Thanks be to God!**

Now, all present light their candles from the main candle.

Lead by presider with candle raised, all enter the home, and proceed to the place of prayer.

Then the Presider raises the Candle and proclaim third time: **The Light of Christ!**

All respond: **Thanks be to God!**

If the lights in the room were off, now are switched on, so that the light embraces all present.

The presider places the lighted Candle on the prepared place.

Someone from the Family says the following:

We give you thanks, O God,

for the light this evening that illumines our hearts and home, and for your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ, a light so filled with glory and power, a light undimmed by sin and death, a light that guides peoples and nations. May we welcome this light of Christ into our lives.

All: Amen.

Proclamation:

Leader: This is the night when Christ poured out his own blood, cleansing us of the ancient sin of Adam:

All: Thanks be to God!

Leader: This is the night when the Paschal Lamb was slain, anointing the hearts and homes of believers:

All: Thanks be to God!



Leader: This is the night when Moses led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt through the Red Sea:

All: *Thanks be to God!*

Leader: This is the night when Christ rose from the dead, banishing death and darkness forever:

All: *Thanks be to God!*

Leader: Thanks be to God!

All: *Thanks be to God!*

You can also use the Easter Proclamation from the missal instead of the above.

All sit down, extinguishing of the candles, except the main candle.

Now is the time of proclaiming of the Word of God. If you have missal/lectionary use it for the readings:

The Song:

All READINGS to choose from:

1. Genesis 1:1 – 2:2; 2. Genesis 22: 1-18;

4. Isaiah 54: 5-14

5. Isaiah 55:1-11

7. Ezekiel 36:16-17a.18-28 8. Romans 6:3-11

3. Exodus 14:15 – 15:1

6. Baruch 3:9-15.32 – 4:4

Gospel: Matthew 28:1-10



Litany of the Saints:

Typically, this is the night where catechumens who have been preparing for Initiation are baptized. We pray for all catechumens, that they may know the joy of the Risen Christ as the source of their Christian identity. If you know the catechumens from your parish, feel free to pray for them by name.

As is also customary, we call on the intercession of those holy women and men who have walked before us and whose example guides us today.

*After each invocation, the response is: **Pray for us.***

LITANY OF THE ALL SAINTS

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, hear us.

Christ, hear us.

Christ, graciously hear us.

Christ, graciously hear us.

God, our heavenly Father, **have mercy on us.**

God the Son, Redeemer of the world, **have mercy on us**



Holy Mother of God,
Holy Virgin of virgins,
Saint Michael,
Saint Gabriel,
Saint Raphael,
All you holy Angels and Archangels,
All you holy orders of blessed Spirits,
Saint John the Baptist,
Saint Joseph,
All you holy Patriarchs and Prophets,
Saint Peter,
Saint Paul,
Saint Andrew,
Saint James,
Saint John,
Saint Thomas,
Saint James,
Saint Philip,
Saint Bartholomew,
Saint Matthew,
Saint Simon,
Saint Thaddeus,
Saint Matthias,
Saint Barnabas,
Saint Luke,
Saint Mark,
All you holy Apostles and Evangelists
All you holy Disciples of the Lord,
All you holy Innocents,
Saint Stephen,
Saint Laurence,
Saint Vincent,
Saint Fabian and Saint Sebastian,
Saint John and Saint Paul,
Saint Cosmas and Saint Damian,
Saint Gervas and Saint Protas,
All you holy Martyrs,
Saint Sylvester,



Saint Gregory,
 Saint Ambrose,
 Saint Augustine,
 Saint Jerome,
 Saint Martin,
 Saint Nicholas,
 All you holy Bishops and Confessors,
 All you holy Doctors,
 Saint Anthony,
 Saint Benedict,
 Saint Bernard,
 Saint Dominic,
 Saint Francis,
 All you holy Priests and Clergy,
 All you holy Monks and Hermits,
 Saint Mary Magdalene,
 pray for us.
 Saint Agatha,
 Saint Lucy,
 Saint Agnes,
 Saint Cecilia,
 Saint Catherine,
 Saint Anastasia,
 All you holy Virgins and Widows,
 All you Saints of God,
 Be merciful,
 From every evil,
 From every sin,
 From your anger,
 From sudden and unforeseen death,
 From the snares of the devil,
 From anger, hatred, and all ill-will,
 From the spirit of uncleanness,
 From lightening and tempest,
 From the scourge of earthquake,
 From plague, famine, and war,
 From everlasting death,
 By the mystery of your holy Incarnation,
 By your coming,
 By your birth,

Lord, save your people.

Lord, save your people.



By your baptism and holy fasting,
By your Cross and suffering,
By your death and burial,
By your holy resurrection,
By your wonderful ascension,
By the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete,
On the day of Judgment,

That you will spare us, **Be merciful to us sinners,**
That you will pardon us, Be merciful to us sinners,
That it may please you to bring us to true repentance,
To govern and preserve your holy Church,
To preserve in holy religion the Pope, and all those in holy Orders,
To humble the enemies of holy Church,
To give peace and unity to the whole Christian people,
To recall to the unity of the Church all those who are straying, to bring all unbelievers to the
light of the Gospel,
To strengthen and preserve us in your holy service,
To raise our minds to desire the things of heaven,
To reward all our benefactors with eternal blessings,
To deliver our souls from eternal damnation, and the souls of our brethren, kinsmen, and
benefactors,
To give and preserve the fruits of the earth,
To grant eternal rest to all the faithful departed,
That it may please you to hear and heed us, Jesus,
Son of the living God, Lord, **hear our prayer,**
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, spare us, Lord.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, graciously hear us.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Christ, hear us.
Christ, hear us.
Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.
Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

INTERCESSIONS

All are welcome to share their own prayers, with everyone responding:

“Risen Christ, Light and Life, hear our prayer.”

The Lord’s Prayer: Gathering these prayers together, as well as those we hold in the silence of our hearts, we pray in the words that Jesus taught us.

Our Father . . .

Prayer to stop the Coronavirus

Almighty and Merciful Father, who show your love to all your creation. We come before you asking for a quick control of the Corona Virus currently ravaging our world. Hear graciously the prayers we make for those affected by the virus in various parts of the world. Grant healing to the sick, eternal life to the dead and consolation to the bereaved families. We pray that an effective medicine to combat the sickness be speedily found. We pray for the relevant Governments and Health Authorities that they take appropriate steps for the good of the people. Look upon us in your mercy and forgive us our failings. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Closing Prayer: Loving God,
We are celebrating your saving work
through our ancestors in faith,
the Resurrection of your Son,
and in our own lives today.

Give us the courage to confront the darkness of this world,
knowing that the Risen Christ brings light and life to all.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

All: Amen.

All are invited to share a sign of Christ’s peace.

Praise the Lord, Alleluia, Alleluia
Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia

