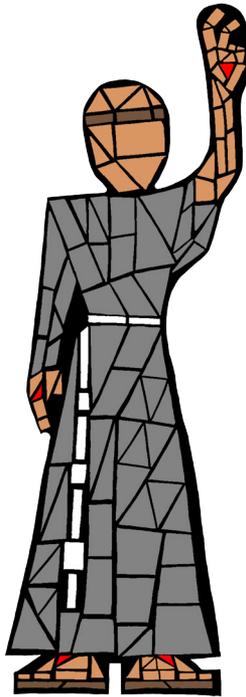


# Easter Vigil



Saint Francis Parish

*Missal*



O HAPPY  
FAULT:   
O HAPPY  
FAULT

O  
NECESSARY  
SIN  
OF ADAM:  
WHICH GAINED  
FOR US  
SO GREAT  
A REDEEMER

THE EASTER EVILJET

# Welcome to Saint Francis!

Christ is risen. Indeed He is risen! I pray and ask God to fill Your hearts with the joy and hope of the Resurrection as we gather and celebrate Easter together! This, the holiest sea son of the Christian year. What an absolutely beautiful feeling to be here in this warm and wonderful place—a special place known as Saint Francis!

Lent, as many believe, doesn't end on Easter Sunday. It ends when the great Easter Triduum begins - on Holy (Maundy) Thursday. The Triduum encompasses the three holiest days of our Christian year - Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Great Vigil of Easter. For it is here that we enter the great celebration of the death and the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The Great Easter Triduum, or Paschal Triduum, are often terms used by some Christian churches, particularly the Catholic Churches, the Lutherans, and many Anglicans Churches, to denote, collectively, the three days from the evening of Holy Thursday to the evening of the first new sprig of Easter. The Triduum begins with the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper and ends after Vespers at sunset on Easter Day. In essence, then, the Great Triduum is actually one Mass Celebration with two major pauses; and that is why we have one missal to follow for all three segments of our Easter Liturgy!

There is evidence that early Christians originally celebrated the Resurrection of Christ every Sunday, with observances such as Scripture readings, Psalms, and the Eucharist. At some point in the first two centuries, however, it became customary to celebrate the Resurrection especially on one day each year. Many of the religious observances of this celebration were taken from the Jewish Passover. Over the centuries, these religious observances have been supplemented by popular customs, many of which were incorporated from springtime fertility celebrations of European and Middle Eastern pagan religion. Rabbits and eggs, for example, are widely-used pagan symbols for fertility. Christians view the Easter eggs as symbols of joy and celebration (as they were forbidden during the fast of Lent) and of new life and resurrection.

The Resurrection of Jesus, as our Christ, reminds people of the presence of a faithful God who offers a love more powerful than even death. God grants this power to every human being so that we can prevail over evil within our soul and the evil surrounding us in the world. God grants us all the power to transform hatred and death into trust, and love, and life that was gifted to us through the Resurrection of Jesus.

During this season of renewal, let us come together and give thanks to the Almighty who made us in His image and redeemed us in His love. During this most Holy Season of Light, may we all remember the love that God has for all of us, without reservation or condition. Abundant blessings to You and those You love in this beautiful Easter Season and through the coming days and years!

Father Greg

# ON THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

The Temple of Christ's Body is restored; He is risen, alleluia!

Today is the Feast of Feasts! On this, the holiest day of the entire year, and for the entire Octave of Easter, Catholics often greet each other with the words of Saint Luke, "Surrexit Dominus vere, alleluia!" ("The Lord is risen indeed!"). The person so greeted responds, "Et apparuit Simoni, alleluia!" ("And hath appeared unto Simon!"). Some Catholics may even answer their telephones with this greeting!

The Easter Vigil, also called the Paschal Vigil or the Great Vigil of Easter, is a service held in many churches as the first official celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus. Historically, it is during this service that people (especially adults) are baptized and that adult catechumens are received into full communion with the Church. It is held in the hours of darkness between sunset on Holy Saturday and sunrise on Easter Day—most commonly in the evening of Holy Saturday—but is considered to be the first celebration of Easter Day, since the Christian tradition considers feasts and other days of observance where Masses are celebrated to begin at sunset of the previous day.

For us, as Catholics, it is the most important Mass of the year as well as the first celebration of the Eucharist during the fifty-day long celebration of Easter, and is marked by the first use, since the beginning of Lent, of the acclamatory word "Alleluia", a distinctive feature of the liturgy of the Easter season.

The Paschal Candle representing the Light of Christ (Lumen Christi) is the centerpiece of the table today and, like the Paschal Candle at church, is relighted each day (such as at dinner and during family prayer) until the Feast of the Ascension, in forty days, when the Light of the World leaves us to ascend to His Father. The pure beeswax candle is usually large and white, and should be surrounded with flowers and the symbols of Easter. It is often carved with the Cross and the numbers for the current year - first the Cross, then the Greek letters, then the numbers of the current year. The cuts are painted to make them stand out (in gold or deep red paint), and 5 grains of incense are inserted at the ends and center of the Cross to symbolize the 5 wounds. Listen to the words of the priests as the cuts are made...

The word "Easter" is actually a word rooted in the name either of an alleged Teutonic goddess (Eostre) or, more probably, from the name "Eostur" meaning the "season of rising" and indicating springtime. It is only used in the English language. It came into use because the month of April was known in Anglo-Saxon countries as easter-monadh, and Eastur became an old Germanic word meaning springtime. Other languages have different names for Easter -- "Pascha" (Latin and Greek), "Pasqua" (Italian), "Pascua" (Spanish), "Paschen" (Dutch), Pasg (Welsh), etc. -- all of which derives from the Hebrew word "Pesach" meaning "Passover."

It is a glorious day for us—*Alleluia! Alleluia! He is risen! Indeed He is risen today!!!*

No "lit" candles or other vessels on the altar before mass. Very "low" light. Easter Candle should shine the brightest.

## *The Service Of Light*

Priest: Dear Friends in Christ: On this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus passed over from death to life, the Church invites its members throughout the world to gather in vigil and prayer. For this is the Passover of the Lord, in which by hearing His Word and celebrating His Sacraments, we share in His victory over death.

Priest: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Priest: Let us pray: O God, through Your Son You have bestowed upon Your people the brightness of Your light. Bless this new fire, and grant that in this Paschal feast we may so burn with heavenly desires, that with pure minds we may attain to the festival of everlasting light; we ask this through Christ our lord.

**All: Amen.**

## **The Inscribing of the Paschal Candle**

*The Presider inscribes with a cross, an alpha and omega, and the numbers designating the current year. Five grains of incense are then inserted into the candle's cross, symbolizing the Five Wounds of Christ.*

Priest: Christ yesterday and today (*vertical arm of the cross*)  
the Beginning and the End (*horizontal arm of the cross*)  
the Alpha (*alpha above the cross*)  
and the Omega (*omega below the cross*)  
All time belongs to him (*numeral 2 in upper left corner of cross*)  
and all the ages (*numeral 1 in upper right corner of cross*)  
To him be glory and power (*numeral 4 in lower left corner*)  
through every age and for ever. Amen (*numeral 0 in lower right corner*)

*Then the priest may insert five grains of incense into the candle in the form of a cross, meanwhile saying:*

- Priest:
1. By his holy
  2. and glorious wounds,
  3. may Christ the Lord
  4. guard us
  5. and protect us. Amen.

## **The Blessing of the New Fire and The Lighting of the Paschal Candle**

*(The Paschal Candle is lighted from the newly kindled fire and the Presider says,)*

Priest: May all the darkness of our hearts and minds be dispelled by the Light of Christ who rises this night in glory!

Priest: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Priest: Bless, we ask, O God, this lighted candle and those upon whom it may shine, that all who this night are partakers of Your Holy Mysteries may be filled with grace and heavenly benediction; that as we once were darkness, but now are light in the Lord, we may walk as children of the Light; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

## **The Solemn Procession**

*(The procession begins and the people pause thrice responding as follows; candles are distributed to members of the assembly, they are lighted from the Paschal Candle at the Narthex to the Sanctuary. )*

*[All enter the Sanctuary with their lighted candles as the ministers enter and take their places...]*

# The Easter Proclamation

*(The Cantor proclaims the Exsultet)*

## The Exsultet

Cantor: Rejoice heavenly powers...

## The Great Preface of Easter

Priest: The Lord be with you!

**All: And also with you.**

Priest: Lift up your hearts!

**All: We lift them up to the Lord!**

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord...

**All: It is right to give God thanks and praise!**

*The priest proclaims the Easter Proclamation in chant:*

Priest: It is truly right that with full hearts...

...Your Son who lives and reigns forever and ever..”

**All: Amen!**

*[Please extinguish Your candles]*

## The Liturgy Of The Word

Priest: Let us hear the record of God’s saving deeds in history, as written in our shared Hebrew Scriptures; and let us pray that God will bring each of us to the fullness of redemption.

## The Readings from the Hebrew Bible

The First Lesson: Genesis 1:1-2:2: The Story of Creation

## Responsorial Psalm

**All: Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.**

Collect

The Third Lesson: Exodus 14: 15-15:1: The Story of the Exodus and God's Saving Power

### **Responsorial Psalm**

**All: Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.**

Collect

The Seventh Lesson: Ezekiel 36:16-17a, 18-28: Blessing upon the people of Israel

### **Responsorial Psalm**

**All: Like a deer that longs for running streams, my soul longs for you, my God.**

Collect

*As the Gloria is sung the light are brought up slowly.*

## **Gloria**

**All: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.**

**We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.**

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

## **The Opening Prayer/Collect of the Day**

*All stand for the reading of the prayer. The prayer begins once all the candle lighters are back in place.*

Priest: Let us pray...

**All: Amen.**

## **A Reading from the Epistle - *Sit***

The First Lesson: Romans 6: 3-11: The Story of our Uniting with Christ in Baptism

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## **Solemn Proclamation of the Alleluia (Cantors)**

### **The Alleluia - *Stand***

### **The Holy Gospel - *Full Lighting***

*Before the Gospel Proclamation:*

Deacon (or Priest): The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Deacon (or Priest): A reading from the Holy Gospel according to [Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John].

**All: Glory to You, Lord!**

*After the Gospel Proclamation:*

Deacon (or Priest): The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!**

## The Homily - *Sit*

*[after the sermon, a time of silence is honored]*

## The Procession to the Baptismal Font

*Toward the end of the Litany, everyone begin to gather at the Font with the priests and other ministers; all gather, surrounding the Water of New Life, as the Presider prepares to bless the water with the ancient rite.*

## The Renewal of Baptismal Promises for the Assembly - *Stand*

Priest: Let us now join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant:

Priest: Do you believe in God the Father?

**People: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Priest: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**People: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Priest: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**People: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

Priest: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

**People: I will, with God's help.**

Priest: Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever You fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?  
People: **I will, with God's help.**

## The Sprinkling Rite of the Assembly

*[The Assembly is sprinkled with water by the Presider in remembrance of their Baptism.]*

## Antiphon for the Rite of Sprinkling

*[Please extinguish your candles as they are collected.]*

## The Prayers of Faithful

Lector: We pray to the Lord.  
All: **Lord, Hear our Prayer**

## Sign of Peace

*The exchange of a sign of peace is a welcomed tradition at Saint Francis! It may take a little longer than most parishes, but is well worth the added effort! Please, make yourself at home and greet one another in the name of Christ. And, if it is your first time, please don't be shy and meet your new friends! If you wish to not embrace, just put out your hand and everyone will simply shake your hand in return and welcome you to this wonderful place! During Lent, we are more reserved, in keeping with the season of penance and reflection, but still offer a warm Sign of Peace.*

Priest: The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
All: **And also with you.**

Deacon or Priest: Let us offer each other the sign of peace!

*The Assembled exchange a sign of God's peace with one another!*

## The Offertory/Gifts Music

# *The Liturgy Of The Eucharist*

## **Preparation of the Altar and Gifts - Sit**

Priest: Blessed are You, Lord God of all creation...

**All: Blessed be God forever.**

Priest: Blessed are You, Lord God..

**All: Blessed be God forever.**

## **Orate, Fratres**

Priest: Pray, beloved, that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**All: May the Lord accept the sacrifice at our hands for the praise and glory of God's name, for our good, and the good of all God's Church.**

## **Preface Dialogue - Stand**

Priest: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## **Sanctus**

**All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

# The Eucharistic Prayer - *Stand*

## Mystery of Faith

Priest: The mystery of faith.

**All: When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.**

## Doxology and Great Amen

Priest: Through God, with God, in God, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, forever and ever.

**All: Amen**

*As we prepare to receive Holy Communion, as a Community of God, we come together to pray in the words that Jesus taught us, The Lord's Prayer. We pray for the Lord to give us our daily bread. We also ask for forgiveness for our errors, and where we have fallen short, and we ask that we be strengthened to do God's will. This is a time for all to gather as one and offer our deepest intentions in prayer and hope.*

## Our Father

Priest: At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

**All:**

**ur 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.**

Priest:

**eliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus**

Christ.

**All: For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.**

*The fraction rite is the breaking of the bread that has become the Body of Christ. In offering His life for us on the Cross, Jesus has become the Lamb of God that is offered for our sins. As the priest breaks the bread, the people sing the Lamb of God, acknowledging Jesus' sacrifice on the cross that takes away our sins.*

## Lamb of God

**All: 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.**

Priest: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**All: Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

## The Communion Hymn

### A Period of Silence

*When the distribution of Holy Communion is completed, there is a period of silence for individual prayer, then a meditation hymn is played, or may be sung.*

## The Communion Meditation/Song after Communion

### The Prayer after Communion

Priest: Let us pray.

*[All pray in silence, then the priest sings, or says, the Prayer and the people proclaim their consent...]*

**All: Amen.**

## *The Concluding Rite*

### **Greeting**

Priest: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

### **Blessing**

Priest: Bow your head and pray for God's Blessing...

*When the Bishop is presiding, the following blessing may be used:*

Bishop: Blessed be the name of the Lord.

**All: Both now and forever.**

Bishop: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

**All: Who made heaven and earth.**

Bishop: May almighty God bless you, ✠ the Father, ✠ and the Son,  
✠ and the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

### **Dismissal**

Deacon or Priest: Go in the peace of the risen Christ; Alleluia,  
Alleluia, Alleluia!

**All: Thanks be to God, Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

### **Recessional Hymn**



Saint  
Francis  
Parish