

Reflection on the Easter Vigil

“This is the night...”

The Easter Vigil is the high point of the entire liturgical year—the most sacred and awe-filled celebration in the Catholic Church. Celebrated after nightfall on Holy Saturday, it marks the transition from the sorrow of the Cross to the joy of the Resurrection.

It is a night of darkness and light, death and life, silence and song—a night that proclaims, with power and beauty: Christ is risen!

The Light of Christ Breaks Through the Darkness

The liturgy begins in silence and darkness. The Paschal fire is lit, and from it the Paschal Candle is blessed and carried into the church, symbolizing Christ, the Light of the World, rising in glory and dispelling the darkness of sin and death.

As the flame spreads from candle to candle, the church gradually fills with light—an image of the spreading of the Gospel through the ages, and the light of hope rekindled in every heart.

The Story of Salvation Is Proclaimed

In the Liturgy of the Word, the Church proclaims key moments from salvation history—from creation to the Exodus, from the prophets to the promise of redemption. These readings remind us that God has always been at work, guiding His people toward the fullness of life.

With the ringing of bells and the singing of the Gloria, the joy of Easter bursts forth: Alleluia! He is risen!

New Life in Christ

The Easter Vigil is also the night when the Church welcomes new members through the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. The font is blessed, and those preparing for the sacraments are born into the Body of Christ. It is a powerful witness of God's grace and the renewal of faith within the Church.

For all the faithful, this night is also a time to renew our own baptismal promises—to reject sin and profess our belief in the Triune God. We are reminded that we, too, have passed from death to life through our union with Christ.

The Joy of the Resurrection

The Easter Vigil is not just a beautiful ceremony—it is an encounter with the Risen Lord. In word, in water, in sacrament, and in community, Christ is alive and present. This holy night invites us to rekindle our hope, deepen our faith, and rejoice in the gift of eternal life.

***"This is the night,
when Christ broke the prison-bars of death,
and rose victorious from the underworld."***

– Exsultet, Easter Proclamation

We invite you to join in this most sacred celebration, and to open your heart to the new life Christ offers.

Check our diocesan website for Easter Vigil Mass times at parishes near you.