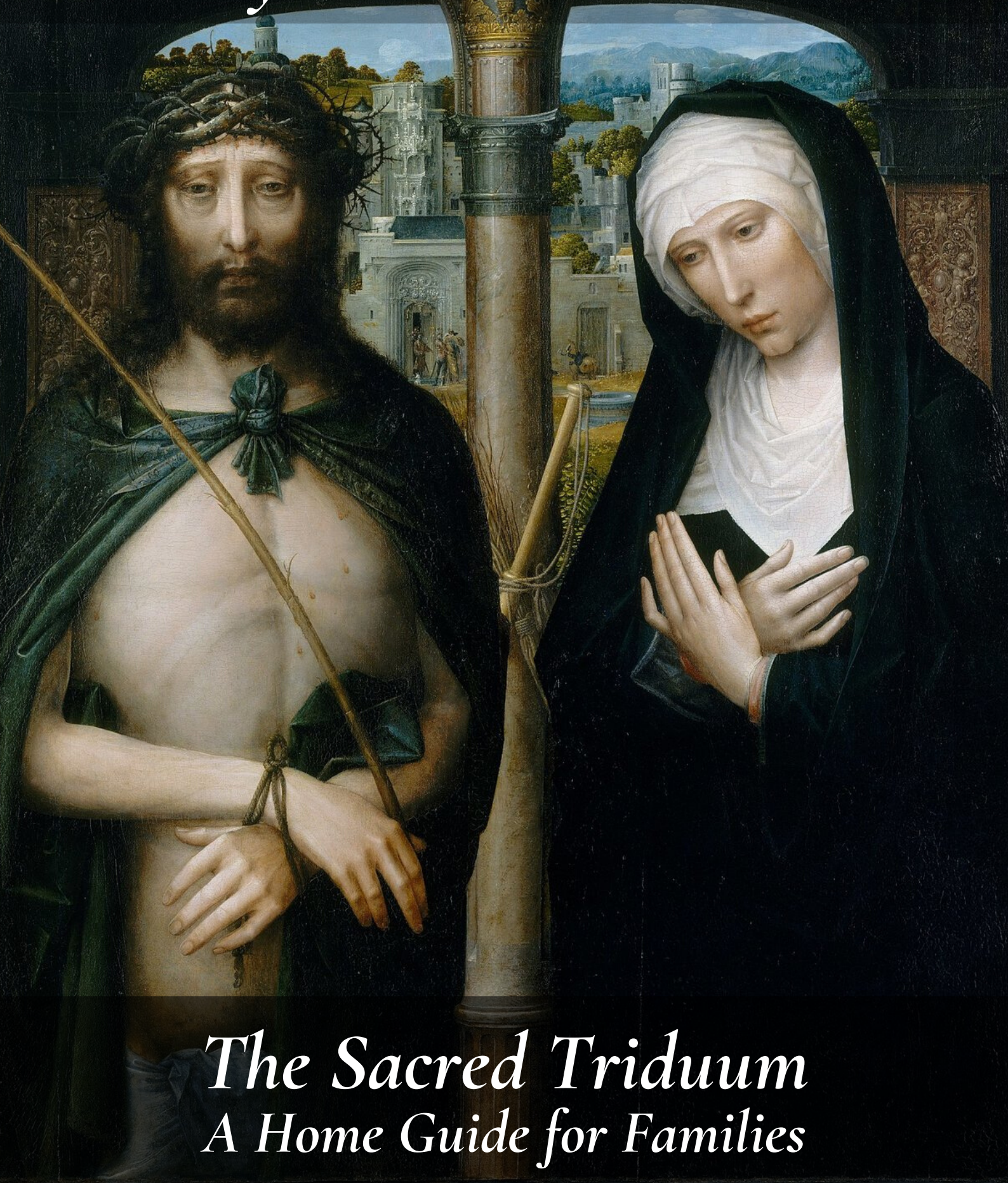




St. Mary Catholic Church & School



*The Sacred Triduum
A Home Guide for Families*

Sacred Triduum from Home

By: Fr. Blake Britton and Mrs. Lydia Britton

This upcoming Holy Week, millions of Catholics will be unable to physically attend the most solemn celebrations of the entire liturgical year. As such, many dioceses, parishes and Catholic organizations are seeking to find creative ways to connect the People of God with one another and maintain their spiritual lives. The following document is one such initiative.

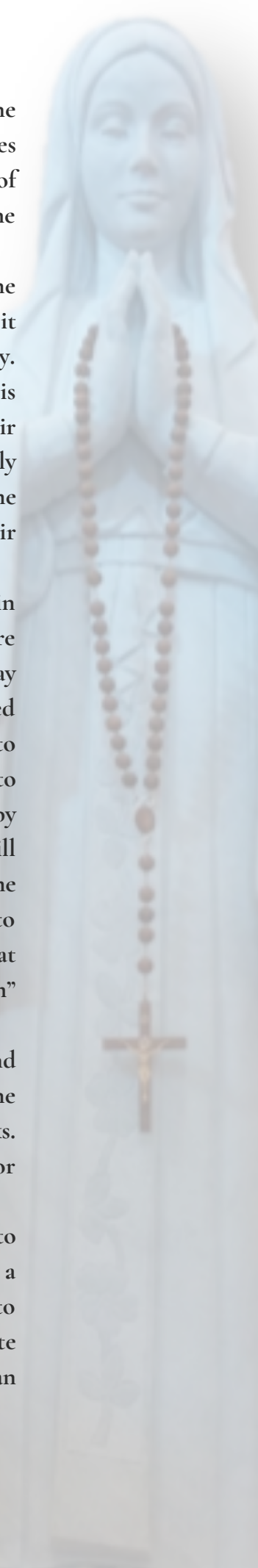
The Paschal Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday) constitute the heart of the Catholic faith. Although this year is extraordinary in its circumstances, it can still afford a beautiful opportunity for families to foster devotion and grow in piety. Our prayer is that this booklet will prove helpful in aiding Catholics during this difficult time so as to allow the celebration of Christ's Paschal Mystery to inspire their souls until we are all able to be together again around the altar of the Lord at the Holy Mass. It is also our hope that some of the practices utilized in this booklet will become staples in the life of Catholic families even after this crisis so as to enrich their experience of the Paschal Triduum.

A few practical notes. The following booklet is intended to aid families in commemorating the Holy Week liturgies from home. The outlines for the liturgies are based on the Liturgy of the Word taken from each day (Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday). There are instructions (also called "rubrics") written in red throughout the booklet. These help the leader and other participants know how to celebrate the liturgy. There are hyperlinks to hymns and other resources if you desire to use them. If accessing these links is not possible, the hymns can be sung a cappella by the families (other appropriate hymns besides the ones suggested may be used). It will be important to separate a table in a designated part of the house to serve as a "home altar" for all of the celebrations. The rubrics at the top of each liturgy suggests how to decorate your "home altar" for the various celebrations. This will be the main place that is decorated for the different celebrations and also where the "The Sacred Triduum" Booklet is placed.

If you have children, try to involve them as much as possible in the rituals and ceremonies. Older kids can do some of the readings for the Liturgy of the Word. The younger ones can help set up the altar, decorate the house or some other simple tasks. This can prove a valuable opportunity for them to grow in their love and devotion for the Paschal Triduum.

I want to thank my mother, Mrs. Lydia Britton, for her outstanding contribution to this booklet. Not only is she an amazing Catholic mother of four children, but also a theologian and liturgist. Both her maternal and theological expertise were vital to developing these celebrations. You and your families remain in our prayers. Let us unite with one another remembering that we are all one body in Christ and that nothing can separate us from the love of God!

Your servant and priest in Christ,
Fr. Blake Britton





Holy Thursday

*"Recognize in this bread what hung on the cross,
and in this chalice what flowed from His side..." -St. Augustine*

HOLY THURSDAY

A Liturgy of the Word for Families

At sunset, gather together to commemorate the Lord's Supper. For today's celebration, if available, use a candle, a crucifix, a table set up with grapes, bread, wheat, and wine cup or glass (just for decoration NOT for use during the Liturgy of the Word). You can also include a picture of the Last Supper. Prepare a large bowl, pitcher of water, and towels for the washing of feet. A chair should be placed in a centralized location for the washing of the feet. An entrance hymn has been provided for the family to sing together. If the hymn is unfamiliar, you may sing along to the provided hyperlink. Assign parts between family members to ensure everyone's participation.

ENTRANCE HYMN: LIFT HIGH THE CROSS

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GbcBXYP4ALE>

Refrain: Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.

1. Come Christians follow where our Savior trod, our King victorious,
Christ the Son of God. **(refrain)**

2. Each newborn servant of the Crucified
bears on the brow the seal of him who died. **(refrain)**

3. O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
your death has brought us life eternally. **(refrain)**

4. So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for victory! **(refrain)**

INTRODUCTION

Leader: (All make the Sign of the Cross together)

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

All: Amen.

Leader: Let us praise God, who fills our hearts and home with peace. Blessed be God for ever.

All: Blessed be God forever.

Leader:

Tonight, we begin to celebrate the Sacred Triduum when we remember the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. We join our Church family throughout the world to remember God's great love for us. We remember Jesus' sharing of the Last Supper when he washed the feet of his disciples and instituted the most Holy Eucharist. It was on this day that Jesus changed the bread and wine into his Body and Blood leaving for us the gift of the Holy Eucharist. Let us serve one another in this family as he served us.

READING (1 COR 11:23-26)

Reader: A reading from the first letter of the Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you,
that the Lord Jesus, on the night he was handed over,
took bread, and, after he had given thanks,
broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."
In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying,
"This cup is the new covenant in my blood.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."
For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup,
you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God (pause for silent prayer)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM [Psalm 116]

(You may sing along with the link provided or the reader can speak the psalm)

<http://archive.ccwatershed.org/media/audio/14/11/22/14-55-05-0.mp3>

Reader: Our blessing cup is a communion with the Blood of Christ

R./ Our blessing cup is a communion with the Blood of Christ

Reader:

How shall I make a return to the Lord
For all the good he has done for me?
The cup of salvation I will take up,
And I will call upon the name of the Lord

R./ Our blessing cup is a communion with the Blood of Christ

Leader:

Precious in the eyes of the Lord
Is the death of his faithful ones
I am your servant, the son of your handmaid;
You have loosed my bonds

R./ Our blessing cup is a communion with the Blood of Christ

Leader:

To you will I offer sacrifice of thanksgiving,
And I will call upon the name of the Lord.
My vows to the Lord I will pay
In the presence of all his people

R./ Our blessing cup is a communion with the Blood of Christ

Verse before the Gospel (all stand)

Leader: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ King of endless glory

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ King of endless glory

GOSPEL READING (John 13:1-5)

Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Before the feast of Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to pass from this world to the Father.
He loved his own in the world and he loved them to the end.
The devil had already induced Judas, son of Simon the Iscariot, to hand him over.
So, during supper,
fully aware that the Father had put everything into his power and that he had come from God and was returning to God,
he rose from supper and took off his outer garments.

He took a towel and tied it around his waist.
Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and dry them with the towel around his waist.
He came to Simon Peter, who said to him,
"Master, are you going to wash my feet?"

Jesus answered and said to him,

“What I am doing, you do not understand now,
but you will understand later.”

Peter said to him, “You will never wash my feet.”

Jesus answered him,

“Unless I wash you, you will have no inheritance with me.”

Simon Peter said to him,

“Master, then not only my feet, but my hands and head as well.”

Jesus said to him,

“Whoever has bathed has no need except to have his feet washed, for he is clean all over;
so you are clean, but not all.” For he knew who would betray him;
for this reason, he said, “Not all of you are clean.”

So when he had washed their feet and put his garments back on and reclined at table again,
he said to them, “Do you realize what I have done for you?

You call me ‘teacher’ and ‘master,’ and rightly so, for indeed I am.

If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet,
you ought to wash one another’s feet.

I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do.”

The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

WASHING OF FEET

The leader invites each family member to sit in the chair and wash each other’s feet. Feet are extended over the bowl and water is poured over the foot and then dried with a towel.

Leader: On this day our Lord washed the feet of His disciples. Let us now wash each other’s feet as an act of charity remembering that we are called to serve one another.

INTERCESSIONS

Leader:

We celebrate this night in remembrance of the gift of the Eucharist which Christ left for us on the night he was betrayed. As a family, we humbly offer our prayers for the Church and the world saying: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Reader: For Church leaders and all those who are called to serve in ministry; may they be a living witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ especially in these challenging times. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: /*Lord, hear our prayer*

Reader:

For all nations, that they will work together toward unity and justice for all nations, especially to provide for the most vulnerable, the poor and the needy. Let us pray to the Lord.

R:/ Lord, hear our prayer

Reader: For all who care for the sick, especially those affected by the Coronavirus; may they experience comfort in the compassion of Christ and be strengthened by the actions and prayers of those who care for them. Let us pray to the Lord.

R:/ Lord, hear our prayer

Reader: For all our family members, friends, and neighbors; that they find peace and strength for the trials of daily life. Let us pray to the Lord.

R:/ Lord, hear our prayer

Reader: For our own intentions which we offer now: **[Add intentions]**; let us pray to the Lord.

R:/ Lord, hear our prayer

Leader:

Merciful God, you gave us your Son for our Paschal Lamb. We entrust our petitions to you in complete trust that you will grant us what we need. Through Christ our Lord.

OUR FATHER

Leader: Let us pray now as a family, as Jesus himself taught us.

All:

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.

*"From the Eucharist comes strength to live the Christian life and zeal to share that life with others"
- St. John Paul II*

Leader: Father, look on the faith of this family as we gather on this holy day. Grant us peace and unity as we offer each other the sign of peace.

Each family member offers the other the sign of peace.

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Leader:

During this time when we are not able to receive Christ in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, we can be spiritually in communion with Christ. He promised to be with us until the end of the age, and we acknowledge that he is with us today.

Let us then pray the following Act of Spiritual Communion:

All:

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 in 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.

CONCLUSION

Leader: Let us pray.

Father,

for your glory and our salvation

you appointed Jesus Christ eternal High Priest.

May the people he gained for you by his blood

come to share in the power of his cross and resurrection

by celebrating his memorial in the Eucharist,

for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

ADORATION HYMN: TANTUM ERGO SACRAMENTUM

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eieQTKO5YP4>

Reflect: Spend some time in prayer as a family. Reflect upon the importance of the Eucharist for us as Catholics. After listening to the hymn, spend some time sharing in discussion.



Good Friday

"How precious the gift of the cross, how splendid to contemplate!"

-St. Theodore the Studite

GOOD FRIDAY

A Liturgy of the Word for Families

At 3:00 p.m. or sometime in the evening, gather together to celebrate Good Friday, the passion and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. Decorations should be minimal. Set up an area with a barren cross (without corpus) and a red cloth over a table. A crown of thorns or three nails can also be placed on the table. No candles are used on Good Friday. Begin by singing a hymn together as a family, if needed, use the provided hyperlink.

OPENING HYMN: WERE YOU THERE

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LLMirF52z1I>

Were you there when they crucified my Lord
were you there when they crucified my Lord
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble, tremble, tremble
Were you there when they crucified my Lord

Were you there when they nailed him to the cross
Were you there when they nailed him to the cross
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble, tremble, tremble
Were you there when they nailed him to the cross

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble, tremble, tremble
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb

INTRODUCTION

Leader: (All make the Sign of the Cross together)

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

All: Amen.

Leader: Let us pray **(Brief Pause)**

Remember your mercies, O Lord,
and with your eternal protection sanctify your servants,
for whom Christ your Son,
by the shedding of his Blood,
established the Paschal Mystery.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.

Leader:

Today we remember the passion of Jesus Christ on the Cross and the salvation that he won for us. We join with all those in the world as we commemorate the sacrifice of Christ.

FIRST READING [HEB 4:14-16; 5:7-9]

Reader: (this can be a family member other than the leader)

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

Brothers and sisters:

Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens,
Jesus, the Son of God,
let us hold fast to our confession.

For we do not have a high priest
who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses,
but one who has similarly been tested in every way,
yet without sin.

So let us confidently approach the throne of grace
to receive mercy and to find grace for timely help.

In the days when Christ was in the flesh,
he offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears
to the one who was able to save him from death,
and he was heard because of his reverence.

Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered;
and when he was made perfect,
he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM [Psalm 31]

The psalm can be sung with the following link or lead by the reader

http://archive.ccwatershed.org/media/audio/11/03/01/10-38-55_o.mp3

Reader: Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.

All: Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.

Reader:

In you, O LORD, I take refuge;
let me never be put to shame.

In your justice rescue me.

Into your hands I commend my spirit;

you will redeem me, O LORD, O faithful God.

All: Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.

Reader:

For all my foes I am an object of reproach,
a laughingstock to my neighbors, and a dread to my friends;
they who see me abroad flee from me.
I am forgotten like the unremembered dead;
I am like a dish that is broken.

All: Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.

Reader:

But my trust is in you, O LORD;
I say, "You are my God.
In your hands is my destiny; rescue me
from the clutches of my enemies and my persecutors."

All: Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.

Reader:

Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your kindness.
Take courage and be stouthearted,
all you who hope in the LORD.

All: Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.

Gospel Verse:

Reader: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory

Reader:

Christ became obedient to the point of death,
even death on a cross.
Because of this, God greatly exalted him
and bestowed on him the name which is above every other name.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory.

GOSPEL [The following parts can be divided between family members: Narrator (N), Voice (V), Jesus (✠), and all others as Crowd (C).] The Narrator begins with the following:

N: The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him scourged. And the soldiers wove a crown out of thorns and placed it on his head, and clothed him in a purple cloak, and they came to him and said,

C: "Hail, King of the Jews!"

N: And they struck him repeatedly. Once more Pilate went out and said to them,

V: "Look, I am bringing him out to you, so that you may know that I find no guilt in him."

N: So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple cloak. And he said to them,

V: "Behold, the man!"

N: When the chief priests and the guards saw him, they cried out,

C: "Crucify him, crucify him!"

N: Pilate said to them,

V: "Take him yourselves and crucify him. I find no guilt in him."

N: The Jews answered,

C: "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God."

N: Now when Pilate heard this statement, he became even more afraid, and went back into the praetorium and said to Jesus,

V: "Where are you from?"

N: Jesus did not answer him. So, Pilate said to him,

V: "Do you not speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you and I have power to crucify you?"

N: Jesus answered him,

✠ "You would have no power over me if it had not been given to you from above. For this reason the one who handed me over to you has the greater sin."

N: Consequently, Pilate tried to release him; but the Jews cried out,

C: “If you release him, you are not a Friend of Caesar. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar.”

N: When Pilate heard these words he brought Jesus out and seated him on the judge’s bench in the place called Stone Pavement, in Hebrew, Gabbatha. It was preparation day for Passover, and it was about noon. And he said to the Jews,

V: “Behold, your king!”

N: They cried out,

C: “Take him away, take him away! Crucify him!”

N: Pilate said to them,

V: “Shall I crucify your king?”

N: The chief priests answered,

C: “We have no king but Caesar.”

N: Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So, they took Jesus, and, carrying the cross himself, he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, in Hebrew, Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus in the middle... When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four shares, a share for each soldier. They also took his tunic, but the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top down. So, they said to one another,

C: “Let’s not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it will be,”

N: In order that the passage of Scripture might be fulfilled that says: They divided my garments among them, and for my vesture they cast lots. This is what the soldiers did. Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved he said to his mother,

✠ “Woman, behold, your son.”

N: Then he said to the disciple,

✠ “Behold, your mother.”

N: And from that hour the disciple took her into his home. After this, aware that everything was now finished, in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled, Jesus said,

✠ “I thirst.”

N: There was a vessel filled with common wine. So, they put a sponge soaked in wine on a sprig of hyssop and put it up to his mouth. When Jesus had taken the wine, he said,

✠ “It is finished.”

N: And bowing his head, he handed over the spirit.

All kneel and pause for a short time in silence before the Cross/Crucifix (if present).

(Then the Leader invites all to stand)

N: Now since it was preparation day, in order that the bodies might not remain on the cross on the sabbath, for the sabbath day of that week was a solemn one, the Jews asked Pilate that their legs be broken and that they be taken down. So, the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and then of the other one who was crucified with Jesus. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs, but one soldier thrust his lance into his side, and immediately blood and water flowed out. An eyewitness has testified, and his testimony is true; he knows that he is speaking the truth, so that you also may come to believe. For this happened so that the Scripture passage might be fulfilled: Not a bone of it will be broken.

And again, another passage says: They will look upon him whom they have pierced. After this, Joseph of Arimathea, secretly a disciple of Jesus for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate if he could remove the body of Jesus. And Pilate permitted it. So, he came and took his body. Nicodemus, the one who had first come to him at night, also came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes weighing about one hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and bound it with burial cloths along with the spices, according to the Jewish burial custom. Now in the place where he had been crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had yet been buried. So, they laid Jesus there because of the Jewish preparation day; for the tomb was close by.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

THE SOLEMN INTERCESSIONS

(These are among the most ancient intercessory prayers of the Church. Traditionally, the faithful are asked to kneel after each petition is prayed).

Leader: We join our prayers with our brothers and sisters around the world

Reader: (All Stand)

I. Let us pray for the holy Church of God, that our God and Lord be pleased to give her peace, to guard her and to unite her throughout the whole world and grant that, leading our life in tranquility and quiet, we may glorify God the Father almighty.

All: Lord hear our prayer (All kneel in brief moment of silent prayer)

Reader: (All Stand)

II. Let us pray also for our most Holy Father Pope Francis, that our God and Lord, who chose him for the Order of Bishops, may keep him safe and unharmed for the Lord's holy Church, to govern the holy People of God.

All: Lord hear our prayer (All kneel in brief moment of silent prayer)

Reader: (All Stand)

III. Let us pray also for our Bishop [name of Bishop], for all Bishops, Priests, and Deacons of the Church and for the whole of the faithful people.

All: Lord hear our prayer

Reader: (All Stand)

IV. Let us pray also for our catechumens, that our God and Lord may open wide the ears of their inmost hearts and unlock the gates of his mercy, that, having received forgiveness of all their sins through the waters of rebirth, they, too, may be one with Christ Jesus our Lord.

All: Lord hear our prayer (All kneel in brief moment of silent prayer)

Reader: (All Stand)

V. Let us pray also for all our brothers and sisters who believe in Christ, that our God and Lord may be pleased, as they live the truth, to gather them together and keep them in his one Church.

All: Lord hear our prayer (All kneel in brief moment of silent prayer)

Reader: (All Stand)

VI. Let us pray also for the Jewish people, to whom the Lord our God spoke first, that he may grant them to advance in love of his name and in faithfulness to his covenant.

All: Lord hear our prayer (All kneel in brief moment of silent prayer)

Reader: (All Stand)

VII. Let us pray also for those who do not believe in Christ, that, enlightened by the Holy Spirit, they, too, may enter on the way of salvation.

All: Lord hear our prayer (All kneel in brief moment of silent prayer)

Reader: (All Stand)

VIII. Let us pray also for those who do not acknowledge God, that, following what is right in sincerity of heart, they may find the way to God himself.

All: Lord hear our prayer **(All kneel in brief moment of silent prayer)**

Reader: (All Stand)

IX. Let us pray also for those in public office, that our God and Lord may direct their minds and hearts according to his will for the true peace and freedom of all.

All: Lord hear our prayer **(All kneel in brief moment of silent prayer)**

Reader: (All Stand)

X. Let us pray, dearly beloved, to God the Father almighty, that he may cleanse the world of all errors, banish disease, drive out hunger, unlock prisons, loosen fetters, granting to travelers' safety, to pilgrims return, health to the sick, and salvation to the dying.

All: Lord hear our prayer **(All kneel in brief moment of silent prayer)**

Reader: (All Stand)

XI. Let us pray, dearly beloved, for a swift end to the coronavirus pandemic that afflicts our world, that our God and Father will heal the sick, strengthen those who care for them, and help us all to persevere in faith.

All: Lord hear our prayer **(All kneel in brief moment of silent prayer)**

A refrain may be sung at this time. The following link can be used to sing together as a family.

JESUS REMEMBER ME

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J3StPXD6flQ>

ADORATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

The leader takes the cross and elevates three times saying the following words each time it is elevated:

Leader: Behold the wood of the cross, on which hung the salvation of the world.

All: Come, let us adore

Then each family member shows reverence to the cross one by one by a simple genuflection (kneeling) or by kissing the Cross. After the veneration, the cross is placed back on the table and the liturgy continues.

OUR FATHER

Leader:

We pray now as a family, as Jesus himself taught us.

All:

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.

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Leader:

During this time when we are not able to receive Christ in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, we can be spiritually in communion with Christ. He promised to be with us until the end of the age, and we acknowledge that he is with us today.

Let us then pray the following Act of Spiritual Communion:

All:

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 in 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.

CONCLUSION

Leader:

Almighty ever-living God,
who have restored us to life
by the blessed Death and Resurrection of your Christ,
preserve in us the work of your mercy,
that, by partaking of this mystery,
we may have a life unceasingly devoted to you.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

"Whenever anything disagreeable or displeasing happens to you, remember Christ crucified and be silent".
- St. John of the Cross



Holy Saturday

"We give glory to you, Lord, who raised up your cross to span the jaws of death like a bridge by which souls might pass from the region of the dead to the land of the living..."

- St. Ephrem the Syrian

HOLY SATURDAY

A Liturgy of the Word for Families

After sunset, gather together to celebrate. Create a home altar that includes white or gold table cloths, white candles, a crucifix, holy water (if available) and flowers/plants. Use the hyperlink to listen to the Proclamation of the Exultet which is always sung at the beginning of the Easter Vigil. The vigil should begin in complete darkness. Turn off the lights and light one candle on the table. Use a small clip-on light or lamp for reading. If possible, have a separate candle for each member of the family to light after the introduction.

INTRODUCTION

Leader: (All make the Sign of the Cross together)

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

All: Amen.

Leader: Let us praise God, who fills our hearts and home with peace. Blessed be God for ever.

All: Blessed be God forever.

Leader:

On this most sacred night, in which our Lord Jesus Christ passed over from death to life, the Church, scattered throughout the world comes together to watch and pray. Even though we cannot be with our parish family tonight, we unite with them in prayer as we celebrate the beginning of Easter.

Each family member lights their individual candles and lifts them up as the following is said/sung:

Leader: *Lumen Christi* (Light of Christ) **All:** *Deo Gratia* (Thanks be to God)

Standing with candles lit and held in hands, all listen to the Exsultet. Candles are extinguished at the end of the Exsultet and all sit to listen to the readings.

EXSULTET

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZVwuc_CNswY

READINGS

Reading I (GN 1:1, 26-31A)

Reader:

A reading from the Book of Genesis:

In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth, God said:

"Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and the cattle, and over all the wild animals and all the creatures that crawl on the ground."

God created man in his image; in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them, saying:

"Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that move on the earth." God also said: "See, I give you every seed-bearing plant all over the earth and every tree that has seed-bearing fruit on it to be your food; and to all the animals of the land, all the birds of the air, and all the living creatures that crawl on the ground, I give all the green plants for food."

And so, it happened. God looked at everything he had made and found it very good.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

(pause for silent prayer)

*"We live for this night!"
- Bl. Carlos Rodriguez*

Reading II (EX 14:15—15:1)

Reader: A reading from the Book of Exodus:

The LORD said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. And you, lift up your staff and, with hand outstretched over the sea, split the sea in two, that the Israelites may pass through it on dry land.

But I will make the Egyptians so obstinate that they will go in after them. Then I will receive glory through Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots and charioteers. The Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I receive glory through Pharaoh and his chariots and charioteers."

The angel of God, who had been leading Israel's camp, now moved and went around behind them. The column of cloud also, leaving the front, took up its place behind them, so that it came between the camp of the Egyptians and that of Israel. But the cloud now became dark, and thus the night passed without the rival camps coming any closer together all night long. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the LORD swept the sea with a strong east wind throughout the night and so turned it into dry land. When the water was thus divided, the Israelites marched into the midst of the sea on dry land, with the water like a wall to their right and to their left.

The Egyptians followed in pursuit; all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and charioteers went after them right into the midst of the sea. In the night watch just before dawn the LORD cast through the column of the fiery cloud upon the Egyptian force a glance that threw it into a panic; and he so clogged their chariot wheels that they could hardly drive. With that the Egyptians sounded the retreat before Israel, because the LORD was fighting for them against the Egyptians. Then the LORD told Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may flow back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and their charioteers." So, Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea flowed back to its normal depth. The Egyptians were fleeing head on toward the sea, when the LORD hurled them into its midst. As the water flowed back, it covered the chariots and the charioteers of Pharaoh's whole army which had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not a single one of them escaped. But the Israelites had marched on dry land through the midst of the sea, with the water like a wall to their right and to their left.

Thus, the LORD saved Israel on that day from the power of the Egyptians. When Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the seashore and beheld the great power that the LORD had shown against the Egyptians, they feared the LORD and believed in him and in his servant Moses. Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD: I will sing to the LORD, for he is gloriously triumphant; horse and chariot he has cast into the sea.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God (pause for silent prayer)

Reading III (IS 54:5-14)

Reader: A reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah

The One who has become your husband is your Maker;
his name is the LORD of hosts;
your redeemer is the Holy One of Israel,
called God of all the earth.
The LORD calls you back,
like a wife forsaken and grieved in spirit,
a wife married in youth and then cast off,
says your God.

For a brief moment I abandoned you,
but with great tenderness I will take you back.
In an outburst of wrath, for a moment
I hid my face from you;
but with enduring love I take pity on you,
says the LORD, your redeemer.
This is for me like the days of Noah,
when I swore that the waters of Noah
should never again deluge the earth;
so I have sworn not to be angry with you,
or to rebuke you.

Though the mountains leave their place
and the hills be shaken,
my love shall never leave you
nor my covenant of peace be shaken,
says the LORD, who has mercy on you.
O afflicted one, storm-battered and unconsolated,
I lay your pavements in carnelians,
and your foundations in sapphires;
I will make your battlements of rubies,
your gates of carbuncles,
and all your walls of precious stones.

All your children shall be taught by the LORD,
and great shall be the peace of your children.
In justice shall you be established,
far from the fear of oppression,
where destruction cannot come near you.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God (pause for silent prayer)

VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL

Leader: alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

All: alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

Leader:

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his mercy endures forever.

Let the house of Israel say, "His mercy endures forever."

All: alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

GOSPEL READING (MT 28:1-10)

Reader: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew:

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning,
Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb.
And behold, there was a great earthquake;
for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, approached,
rolled back the stone and sat upon it.
His appearance was like lightning and his clothing was white as snow.
The guards were shaken with fear of him and became like dead men.
Then the angel said to the women in reply,

"Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. He is not here,
for he has been raised just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then
go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and he is
going before you to Galilee; there you will see him.' Behold, I have told you."

Then they went away quickly from the tomb, fearful yet overjoyed,
and ran to announce this to his disciples. And behold,
Jesus met them on their way and greeted them.
They approached, embraced his feet, and did him homage.
Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee,
and there they will see me."

The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Discuss: What have been the graces of this Lenten season? What are you most grateful for?
How will you allow the joy and salvation of Christ to live in your hearts?

LITANY OF SAINTS

Leader: On this night when we honor the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, let us ask for the intercession of all saints so that we might join them in glorifying God. The response is: *Pray for us.*

You can also add your own favorite saints to this litany.

Holy Mary, Mother of God: *Pray for us.*

Saint Joseph: *Pray for us.*

Saint John the Baptist: *Pray for us.*

Saint Peter and Saint Paul: *Pray for us.*

Saint Mary Magdalene: *Pray for us.*

Saint Felicity and Saint Perpetua: *Pray for us.*

Saint Benedict and Saint Scholastica: *Pray for us.*

All holy men and women: *Pray for us.*

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

Leader: 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 observances are concluded, we renew the promises of our baptism as a family united in Christ. And so I ask you to respond “I do” to each promise:

Leader: Do you renounce Satan?

All: I do.

Leader: And all his works?

All: I do.

Leader: And all his empty promises?

All: I do.

Leader: Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?

All: I do.

Leader: 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?

All: I do.

Leader: 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.

Leader:

May the Lord bless and give us strength to live these baptismal promises, now and always.

All: Amen.

(If Holy Water is present, each person signs themselves with the Sign of the Cross)

INTERCESSION

Leader: We celebrate this most holy of nights as a family, trusting that God will continue to hear our prayers. The response is: *Risen Christ, hear our prayer.*

Reader: For our Holy Father and all believers, that their faith in the resurrection make them joyful messengers of salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

R:/ *Risen Christ, hear our prayer*

Reader: For community leaders, that their public acts proclaim justice and mercy for all, especially during these difficult times. Let us pray to the Lord.

R:/ *Risen Christ, hear our prayer*

Reader: For all who have not heard or who have not believed that their hearts be stirred by the example of those who proclaim the risen Lord. Let us pray to the Lord.

R:/ *Risen Christ, hear our prayer*

Reader: For all our family members, friends, and neighbors; that they find peace and joy this Easter in the risen Lord, especially during this pandemic. Let us pray to the Lord.

R:/ *Risen Christ, hear our prayer*

OUR FATHER

Leader: 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.

All:

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.

SIGN OF PEACE

Leader: Father, look on the faith of this family as we gather on this holy night. Grant us peace and unity as we offer each other the sign of peace.

Each family member offers the other the sign of peace.

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Leader:

During this time when we are not able to receive Christ in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, we can be spiritually in communion with Christ. He promised to be with us until the end of the age, and we acknowledge that he is with us today.

Let us then pray the following Act of Spiritual Communion:

All:

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 in 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.

CONCLUSION

Leader:

Loving God,

We celebrate the life and love that you proclaim and share with us.

May we know the joy of your Resurrection in our hearts
as we strive to share this joy with others.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

HYMN: JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN TODAY

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?=dT7dGcsrPkQ&list=PL5FEE527DAE6DBA95&index=4>

1 Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia!
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
who did once upon the cross Alleluia!
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

2 Hymns of praise then let us sing Alleluia!
unto Christ our heav'nly King, Alleluia!
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!