

Easter

Background: The Catholic Church is a people of the Resurrection and this is what we celebrate at Easter. It is the most important holiday in the Christian calendar. Easter represents God fulfilling his promises to mankind. Easter Sunday begins the Easter season in the Catholic Church and lasts for seven week and ends at Pentecost. (A Pentecost lesson will be posted)

A. Opening Prayer -

Responsorial Psalm for Easter <http://uscgb.org/bible/readings/041220.cfm>

Directions: Everyone in the family will say the response and the various members of the family can take turns reading the Psalms.

ALL: This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

Reader 1: 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: This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

Reader 2: "The right hand of the LORD has struck with power;
the right hand of the LORD is exalted.
I shall not die, but live,
and declare the works of the LORD."

ALL: This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.

By the LORD has this been done;
it is wonderful in our eyes.

ALL: This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

B. Discussion:

Start this lesson with a family discussion. Ask the following?

1. Why do we celebrate Easter?
2. What makes Easter so special?
3. In the prayer we did together we said, "let us rejoice and be glad", why do you think our prayer said that?

C. Read out Loud : John 20: 1-10 <http://uscgb.org/bible/readings/041220.cfm>

- John is the fourth Gospel and is found in the New Testament
- 20 is the Chapter, which will be a larger number
- 1-10 refers to the verses, which will be the smaller numbers

- Select a member of your family to be the “Reader”.
- Have them read the verses above.
- Imagine you arrive at the tomb of Jesus and find that the stone covering the entrance had been removed, how do you think you would feel?
- Imagine you were one of Jesus’ disciples and how do you think they felt when they said the following: “They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don’t know where they put him.”
- What do you think is meant by the following: “For they did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead.”

D. **Activity** – Resurrection Cross

1. We believe that Jesus rose on Easter Sunday. Let us create something to display in our homes that represents that.

Materials:

Cross outline (*handout/or draw your own) **handout is on the following page*

Crayons/Markers/Coloring Pencils/Paints

Decorations: Decorative Stickers , Flowers, colorful tape etc.

Directions:

1. Give each family a copy of the Cross handout or the hand drawn one
2. On their Cross have each family member write “We believe Christ has RISEN!”
3. Have them decorate their crosses. Make them nice and bright!
4. Find a special place to display your Crosses.
5. OPTIONAL: Take a picture of your crosses and send them to LRobustelli@drvc.org. We will post these on the Faith Formation Website and Facebook page.

