

## Homily for the Easter Vigil Mass

Theme: JESUS CHRIST IS OUR TRUE LIGHT

Easter Vigil is considered by the Church as “The Mother of All Vigils.” On this holy night, we await at the Lord’s tomb in prayer and fasting, meditating on the Passion, death, his descent into hell and his resurrection. The Church calls our attention to the symbolism of light and darkness. The liturgy identifies darkness with sin, ignorance, and insecurity. The Paschal candle symbolizes Christ, the Light of the world. So on this Vigil, Mother of all Vigils, the Church continues to proclaim Jesus Christ as the true Light of the world.

On this Easter Vigil Mass, we have nine readings: seven from the Old Testament and two from the New Testament. These readings recount the history of our salvation in Jesus Christ. We hear of the creation story, the fall of humanity after creation that led to the promise of our Savior, Jesus Christ

The Creation account in Genesis, the Crossing of the Red Sea in Exodus, the Epistles, and the Gospel reading must be read. In our Holy Rosary Parish, the Liturgy committee chose a total of five readings.

Our first reading is taken from Genesis 1:1-2,2, the author described Creation as he envisioned it. The main lesson is this, God worked for six days during creation and took a rest on the seventh day. We are also to work but must keep a day free for rest and worship Him our Maker on the seventh day/Sabbath. The second reading is taken from Exodus 14:15-15:1 tells us just as God liberated the Israelites from slavery to their freedom, for us through our baptism into Christ, God has liberated us from sin into his royal family. Our third reading Ezekiel 36:16-17a,18-28 re-echoes our baptism into Christ.

During this Mass, we will receive Michael Zastawniak into the Church through the sacrament of baptism, and he will receive his First Holy Communion. The rest of us will renew our baptismal promises, and I will then sprinkle the holy water upon you all.

In our fourth reading, St. Paul talks of baptismal ceremony the early Christian community practiced. He is referring to baptism by immersion. Baptism either by immersion or pouring of water on the candidate takes away our original sin and makes us new people in Christ. St. Paul reminds us that “dying with Christ and rising up to a new life” is an ongoing process until it is fully realized in the life to come. In Jesus Christ, we Christians can confidently say “I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord.”

On this Easter Vigil Mass, our Gospel reading is taking from the Gospel of St. Matthew. St. Matthew tells us on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were greeted by the angel who announced that Jesus has been raised from the dead. They were to go and announce this good news to Jesus’ disciples. On their way to announce the good news just as the angel directed them, they met Jesus who greeted them. Jesus then told them, “Do not be afraid, God tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.” They did just as Jesus ordered them to do.

Jesus asks us also to continue to announce he is the True light of the world. He has overcome sin and death and assures us of eternal life, if we put our total faith in Him.

Happy and blessed Easter to you all.