



FAMILIES FORMING DISCIPLES

A FAMILY-FOCUSED APPROACH TO FAITH FORMATION

LIFE OF CHRIST: THE GLORIOUS MYSTERIES

TOPIC: THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

Sacred Scripture

HOS 6:2; MT 28;
MK 16; LK 24; JN 20-21;
ACTS 2:32

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH NOS. 571

CREED	LITURGY	LIFE	PRAYER
nos.	nos.	nos.	nos.
638-667, 988-1004	1166-71, 1239, 1243, 1330, 1337-44	1987-88, 2174-95	2666, 2738-45, 2837

MATERIALS

- Bibles
- Best Coloring Pages for Kids (for [Easter and Ascension](#)) to be used anytime in Weeks 1 & 3
- Crayons, colored pencils
- Large ball(s) of twine or yarn
- [Catholic 101: The Paschal Candle](#) (video can be used during lesson or as background information for catechist)
- [DIY Paschal Candle for Home](#) (Catholic Easter Tradition!) see link for materials list
- Or - [How to Make a Paschal Candle](#) - see link for materials list
- Posted List of [Ice Breaker Questions](#)
- [Resurrection Play Script](#)

GOALS

- Families will begin learning about the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary.
- Families will reflect on and discuss why the Resurrection of Jesus is the most significant event in the entire Bible and in all of human history.
- Families will discuss why Jesus' Resurrection is important to them today.
- Families will learn about and create their own Paschal Candle to be placed on their home altars for prayer during the Easter Season.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ,
We entrust our family to You and ask for Your blessing and protection. We love You Lord Jesus with all our hearts and we ask that You help our family become more like the Holy Family. Help us to be kind, loving, and patient with one another. Give us all the grace we need to become saints and Your faithful disciples. Amen.

ICE BREAKER

Three or more families can be grouped together. Display the [list of questions](#) so that everyone can see them. There should be at least one question for each player. Have players sit on the floor, with one having a ball of twine or yarn. Have that player answer a question from the list. Then have them look at another player, call their name, and throw the ball of yarn at them while holding on to an end of the yarn. By the end, you will have formed a "family relationship web."

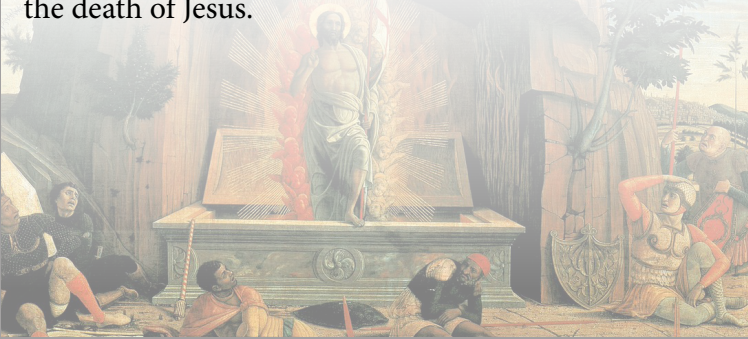


TEACH

1. Hook/Question

Happy Easter! Christ is Risen!

This month we are going to begin learning about the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary, specifically, the Resurrection of Our Lord and the Ascension! The Glorious Mysteries are the events that happened after the death of Jesus.



2. Introduce Topic

“In the Glorious Mysteries, we not only see the beautiful glory of God, but we see the incredible dream that God has for each one of us. He wants us to live lives of incredible joy and purpose, and ultimately live with him for eternity.”

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3. CONTENT

The First Glorious Mystery, The Resurrection of the Lord, [John 20:1-23](#)

This story can be acted out fully as a play, or read aloud in parts inviting families to read along with their Bibles.

[Resurrection Play Script](#)



FAMILY CONVERSATION

1. What is the most important thing that has ever happened to you?
2. How did that event change your life?
3. Jesus' Resurrection from the dead is the most significant event ever written about in the entire Bible and in all of human history. Why do you think the Resurrection is so important?
4. How do you think Jesus' Resurrection changed the lives of Mary Magdalen, the Apostles, and the other disciples?
5. Why is Jesus' Resurrection important to you? What does the Resurrection mean for you and your family?



4. FAMILY ACTIVITY

Ask: Does anyone know what the Paschal Mystery means?

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* defines the Paschal Mystery as: **Christ's work of redemption accomplished principally by his Passion, Death, Resurrection, and glorious Ascension**, whereby "dying he destroyed our death, rising he restored our life" (no. 1067; cf. 654).

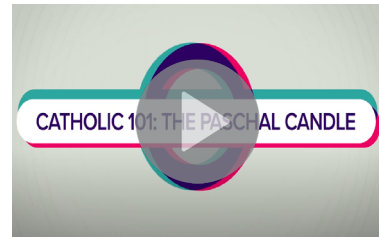
Every Catholic Church has a Paschal or Easter Candle to remind us of this mystery.

Watch: 21 | Paschal Candle
Chuck Knows Church (2 min)



OR

Catholic 101: The Paschal Candle (2 min)



Families create their own Paschal Candles for their Home Altars

- [DIY Paschal Candle for Home](#)
(Catholic Easter Tradition!)
see link for materials list

OR

- [How to Make a Paschal Candle](#)
see link for materials list



5. MISSION

1

First, Introduce Mission Activity

Introduce Mission Activity to be done at home during Week 2 and to be shared at the gathering of families on Week 3.

2

Second, Explain Activity

Your Family At-Home Mission is to watch together as a family the video(s) that are appropriate for your children's age level, read the 50 Ways to Celebrate the 50 Days of Easter with Your Children article, and create your *Family's Plan for Living the Easter Season*. Then place your Paschal Candle on your family's home altar and pray together a decade of the Rosary meditating on the Resurrection of Jesus. Light the candle each time you pray together during the Easter Season.

Lastly, please complete the *Families Forming Disciples* [Family Survey](#).

3

Last, Model for Families

Model for the families by sharing your own *Family's Plan for Living the Easter Season*. Finally, show the families the Paschal Candle that you have placed on your own home altar.

6. REVIEW & CLOSE IN PRAYER

Easter Prayer

We thank you that Easter
is not about *a* people,
but *all* people.
THAT your love and your
Salvation are for all who
confess with voices,
hearts and lives.
THAT the tomb is empty
because Jesus is risen.
THAT we might know
forgiveness.
THAT lives might be reborn
and your name glorified now
and for eternity.
Amen

REMIND

Remind families about the next meeting date and time.



SUPPORTING QUOTES FROM CHURCH DOCUMENTS

***Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 638:**

The Resurrection of Jesus is the crowning truth of our faith in Christ, a faith believed and lived as the central truth by the first Christian community; handed on as fundamental by Tradition; established by the documents of the New Testament; and preached as an essential part of the Paschal Mystery along with the cross:

*Christ is risen from the dead!
Dying, he conquered death;
To the dead, he has given life.*

Second Vatican Council, *Lumen Gentium* (Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, 1964), no. 38:

Each individual layman must stand before the world as a witness to the resurrection and life of the Lord Jesus and a symbol of the living God. All the laity as a community and each one according to his ability must nourish the world with spiritual fruits.

Pope Francis, Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel, 2013), nos. 5-6:

The Gospel, radiant with the glory of Christ's cross, constantly invites us to rejoice.... The disciples "rejoiced" (Jn 20:20) at the sight of the risen Christ....

There are Christians whose lives seem like Lent without Easter. I realize of course that joy is not expressed the same way at all times in life, especially at moments of great difficulty. Joy adapts and changes, but it always endures, even as a flicker of light born of our personal certainty that, when everything is said and done, we are infinitely loved. I understand the grief of people who have to endure great suffering, yet slowly but surely we all have to let the joy of faith slowly revive as a quiet yet firm trust, even amid the greatest distress: "My soul is bereft of peace; I have forgotten what happiness is... But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning. Great is your faithfulness... It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord" (Lam 3:17, 21-23, 26).