

The Gospel at Home

This Week's Gospel: John 20:1-9 and John 20:19-31

This week's Gospel at Home covers two Sundays. The Gospel for Easter tells of Mary of Magdala's visit to the tomb and her discovery that Jesus was not there. The Gospel for the following Sunday describes Jesus' appearance to his disciples, his greeting of peace, and his gift of the Holy Spirit.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): Easter celebrates new life. Children see new life in growing things in nature. Sometime during these two weeks take a walk in a park or in the country. Look for signs of new life and talk with your child about the gift of life.

Promise (Grades K-1): In class, your child made two story strips that tell the Gospel stories from the two Sundays. Ask them to share the stories with the family and talk about the joy Mary and the followers of Jesus had when they found Jesus was alive. How can your family share Easter joy with others?

Good News (Grades 2-3): Ask your child to tell you the why Catholics say or sing the word Alleluia so much during Easter time. Share the story of Mary's visit to the empty tomb and of Jesus' visit to his followers. Follow the instructions in the last page of the Good News booklet to make an Easter candle for your family. Light your candle, with fire or your imagination, each evening during the season of Easter, and say or sing your family "alleluia."

Venture (Grades 4-6): Your child experienced an Easter Vigil prayer and dramatized the Gospels for both Easter Sunday and the following Sunday. The class also learned about the conversion of Saint Paul and about the early witnesses to the Resurrection and how those witnesses spread the Good News. If your family attended the Easter Vigil, talk about your favorite parts of the Mass. Say the prayer on the cover of this week's lesson book together and light a candle to signify the start of the Easter season. Talk about ways your family witnesses to Jesus' Resurrection.

Visions (Grades 7-8): Both Sunday Gospels that are a part of this lesson taught your child that Easter faith makes all things new. Part of that Easter faith is the call to be witnesses to Jesus' Resurrection. For the people in the Gospel stories, the great sorrow of their loss was turned to great joy when they realized that Jesus had been raised from the dead. Talk about losses your family has experienced. What did you feel? What did you do? Commit as a family to take time to enjoy one another's company during the days of Easter.

Pray Together

One of the important parts of the Easter Vigil service is the celebration of Baptism and the renewal of your own baptismal promises. If you still have your family's baptismal candles and certificates, display them during the first two weeks of Easter. Say your morning or evening prayer in front of the display and renew your own baptismal vows.