

# Five Ideas to Celebrate the Easter Season

*I make  
all things new*

*An Easter journey from Family Rosary*



# Welcome to Our Family

Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

For two millennia, Christians throughout the world have celebrated the Resurrection of Jesus Christ as the central event of history. This Easter, you and your family once again have the opportunity to share in the Church's joy.

What is the meaning of the Resurrection? "While we were yet sinners," Saint Paul explains, "Christ died for us," and in rising from the dead, defeated sin and won for us the opportunity of eternal life with Him (Romans 5:8). The truth of the Resurrection is meant to penetrate our hearts and transform our homes.

During Lent, our prayer, fasting, and almsgiving helped us re-orient our lives toward God. As you and your family celebrate Easter, we encourage you to receive the new life that He won for us in His Passion and Resurrection. Family prayer, service, and participation in the sacramental life of the Church are some of the many ways you and your family can open yourselves to His grace.

Family Rosary wishes you a blessed Easter season!

## A Little History

*Servant of God Patrick Peyton began his ministry in 1942 with the goal of building family unity through daily prayer of the Rosary. Inspired by his own father who had a deep devotion to family prayer, praying the Rosary became the foundation for the life of Father Peyton (1909-92).*

*We at Family Rosary are ever so grateful Father Peyton's family instilled in him the importance of family prayer. Now it can be part of your family's tradition so you can fulfill the vision that "The Family That Prays Together Stays Together," the slogan coined by Father Patrick Peyton, C.S.C., so many years ago.*



**Family Rosary**

HOLY CROSS  
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**“O Death, where is your sting? O Hell, where is your victory? Christ is risen, and you are overthrown. Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen. Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice. Christ is risen, and life reigns. Christ is risen, and not one dead remains in the grave. For Christ, being risen from the dead, is become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. To Him be glory and dominion unto ages of ages.”**

—St. John Chrysostom, Easter Homily

As you probably already know, Easter is not just a one-day holiday in the Catholic Church. It is a 50-day season of celebrating and meditating on Jesus Christ’s resurrection from the dead, the event on which our entire faith is centered.

During the Octave of Easter, which is the eight days between Easter Sunday and Divine Mercy Sunday, it is as if each day is Easter Sunday! If you are reading the daily Gospel readings with us each day, you probably already have noticed that all of them are related to the various accounts of the Risen Lord.

Fifty days is a long time to celebrate something. But when we recall that what we are celebrating is the most important aspect of our faith, we are grateful that in the Church’s wisdom, we are given ample time to focus on what the resurrection means in salvation history as well as what it means to us, personally.

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We do not have to keep the party going for 50 days, though! After all, most of us have jobs, school and chores to attend to, not to mention the upcoming spring sports schedule and various family commitments to incorporate into the daily routine.

There have been many times that visiting the sick and those with infirmities has been a great option for us as well.

But if we can sprinkle a few key celebratory moments into our normal schedule, then perhaps we can still maintain a spirit of Easter between now and Pentecost Sunday (May 24). And perhaps celebrating the Easter season will allow our faith to become an even more intricate part of our everyday life, well into Ordinary Time and beyond.

Here are five simple things to do this Easter season to keep the joyous celebration of Christ's Resurrection alive in the hearts of you and your family:

1. **Take Your Own Emmaus Walk.** One of the Resurrection accounts takes place on a road. Found in the Gospel of Luke 24:13-35, two disciples encounter Jesus while walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus. At first, the disciples do not recognize Jesus, but He walks with them and explains the Scriptures to them. Finally, they recognize Jesus in the breaking of the bread.

On a nice sunny day, take a walk on a favorite path or find a new hiking trail to explore. At some point, take a break, enjoy a simple snack, and read the Emmaus reading. What would you talk to Jesus about if He joined you on your walk? Ponder the times in your life when you did not recognize Jesus' presence in your life as well as those moments when He is more recognizable to you.

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2. Host a Divine Mercy Tea Party. On Divine Mercy Sunday (April 11), close to the three o'clock hour, the traditional hour of Divine Mercy, gather family and friends to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Set up an image of the Divine Mercy, even if it's only a holy card, and light a candle during the prayer time. Afterward, enjoy tea or another favorite beverage along with these pretty [Divine Mercy-inspired cookies](#) that CatholicMom.com contributor Barbara Stein features on her food blog. Invite each person to share his own experiences of God's mercy, love and forgiveness.

3. Honor One (or Two) of God's Saints. Do you or one of your children have a patron saint whose feast day is celebrated during the spring? If so, this is a great place to start! If not, look ahead on the liturgical calendar to see which saints are honored during this time of year. Some possibilities include St. George (April 23), St. Mark (April 25) and St. Catherine of Siena (April 29).

Honoring the feast days of the saints can be simple or elaborate; it's really up to you. For a simple plan, consider attending Mass that day, followed by a special breakfast. Other activities could include reading a short account of the saint's life, asking the saint for his or her intercession for a particular prayer request, gifting someone who is named after the saint with a special prayer card or medal, or celebrating with a trip to the ice cream shop.

4. Set up a Mary Altar. Much of the Easter season is within the month of May, which is dedicated to the Blessed Mother. Set up an extra-special space in your home to honor Our Lady. A Mary altar doesn't have to be fancy. It can be simple but beautiful atop a fireplace mantle or bookshelf. If you don't have a statue of Mary, a framed holy card and Rosary can adorn your altar. Get the children involved by asking them to make little bouquets of flowers for the Blessed Mother. Light a candle, and take time to pray (alone and with your family) in front of your altar every day.

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5. Celebrate a Birthday. Pentecost, the last day of Easter, is the day when the Holy Spirit descended upon the Blessed Mother and the apostles as tongues of fire. It is traditionally known as the birthday of the Church, so why not have a birthday party? On this special day, attend Mass and be sure to wear red or orange to symbolize the Holy Spirit. After lunch or dinner, serve [birthday cake like this one from Catholic Cuisine](#). Conclude with a prayer to the Holy Spirit, asking Him to govern your thoughts, words and actions.

St. Augustine of Hippo said that “we are an Easter people and ‘Alleluia’ is our song!” And because of this, the Church gives us 50 days to meditate on this reality and celebrate the hope Jesus’ Resurrection gives us. May we enjoy this season to the fullest!

**Your turn: How do you celebrate the Easter season?  
Do you have traditions or special customs?**

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RECEIVE AND LIVE THE NEW LIFE OF THE RISEN CHRIST IN YOUR FAMILY! Our Lady, the Mother of the Church shows you what this means and wants to help you to do it! This New Life of Christ is what our families and our world need now as we try to move out of Covid! The Risen Christ wants to revive us now! To heal, to renew love in the home and in the human community, calling us to follow HIM and His way, with Our Lady. Follow us for all of your Easter spritual needs.

**Keep an eye on:**

Family Rosary@ [familyrosary.org](http://familyrosary.org)

Catholic Mom@ [catholicmom.com](http://catholicmom.com)

Museum of Family Prayer@ [museumoffamilyprayer.com](http://museumoffamilyprayer.com)

and on our Facebook and Instagram sites too!

**#IMakeAllThingsNew #Easter2021**



We hope the time you've spent reflecting with this material has been enriching. Continue to pray with your family every day, wherever you are.

For additional online resources for family prayer including additional e-books and the mobile Rosary App, please visit our website at [www.FamilyRosary.org](http://www.FamilyRosary.org).

This e-book and all our resources represent a culmination of Father Peyton's passion for family unity through prayer. We hope our services will enhance your family's prayer life particularly remembering Father Peyton's famous words, "The family that prays together stays together."

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