

Easter's Over ...Now What?

*I make
all things new*

An Easter journey from Family Rosary



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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.



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Five Ideas to Celebrate the Easter Season

Easter Mass has ended and everyone is still alive. The big meal was prepared, eaten, and is (mostly) digested. Fancy dresses and suits have hopefully (but perhaps not likely) made their way into the dirty clothes hamper. Family members and friends have said their goodbyes and headed home, and the chocolate bunny is wondering where his ears and tail went. Oops.

ALLELUIA, EVERYONE! We made it! Easter is over!!

Well, hold on. Not exactly. The Church, in Her wisdom, provides us with helpful mile markers throughout the year to remind us of who we are and to Whom we belong. For example, during the 40 days of Lent, we fasted, prayed, and gave alms – hopefully releasing imbalanced attachments to things and improper attitudes while adopting good practices and habits that led us closer to Christ.

As Catholics, we believe that Easter is a 50-day season, and as such, Easter begins when we celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord from the tomb. Just as a couple's wedding day isn't the end game for the Sacrament of Matrimony but rather the very first day of the spouses' new life together, Easter is the starting point to a whole season of time celebrating new life in our Risen Lord.

When I was growing up, the pretty Easter dresses (and, often, new white shoes) made their way out of the closet for my sister and me, and we attended Easter Sunday Mass together as a family. Afterward, we usually joined with our cousins for a lively Easter egg hunt in the yard or inside, depending on how damp and cold the Oregon weather was.

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We ate a lot of really good food and probably a bit too much candy. But I honestly don't remember celebrating Easter much after Sunday. Eventually we found all the lingering plastic eggs, the Easter baskets and bonnets were packed back up, and that was about it for Easter. It was a very special and important day, to be sure, but the Church reminds us that it's just the beginning!

Now with five children of our own, I am drawn to traditions and practices that keep Easter alive for the full 50 days of the season, which, frankly, sounds a bit daunting. Here are some ideas for keeping the Resurrected Lord alive in your home long after the last jelly bean has disappeared.

- Jesus is Risen - Let Us Sing! - Greet people with, "Happy Easter!" throughout the entire Easter Season (it ends on May 23, which is Pentecost Sunday). At the grocery store, on the ball field, in the carpool line or at the homeschooling co-op: don't be afraid to spread the joy of Jesus with people in your life. Who cares if peoplefolks give you funny looks? Perhaps you'll be afforded a unique opportunity to evangelize and share the joy of our faith. Personally, I'm a fan of having people look at me like I'm crazy for all the right reasons. But maybe that's just me.
- Jesus is the Light of the World - Light a special Easter candle during dinner each night of the Easter season. Or go into the attic or garage or storage unit or special drawer/box and find everyone's baptismal candle to light during Sunday supper to remind yourselves how, through the waters of baptism, you have died and risen with Christ. Think of ways your family can be Jesus' light to one another, in your parish, and in your greater community and go do something about it!

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- Jesus is the Good News the Hope for Salvation - Read the Gospel accounts of Jesus' Resurrection aloud during family devotion and prayer time on Sundays throughout Easter (See: Matthew 28:1-10, Mark 16:1-14, Luke 24:1-44, and John 20:1-29). If you have children who can read, allow them to take turns. Report back to one another bits of "good news" you've heard and experienced over the course of your day. Younger children can draw pictures of their good news, and pin it on the refrigerator or other prominent display place in your home.
- Jesus is the Risen King and in Him we have New Life - Plant an Easter mini-garden (or planter pot) using seasonal flora outside with your kiddos. Or bring a meal to a family with a new baby (call ahead to see if it's okay with Mom and Dad and to check for allergies, etc.). Make plans to visit the baby chicks or ducks or lambs at a local farm. Rejoice in the new life around you!
- Jesus is Alive! - In Him we are a New Creation Check out the Catholic Mom archives, Catholic Icing, and The Catholic Toolbox for creative ideas to keep the Easter season alive.

Now it's your turn - how do you celebrate the Season of Easter and keep it alive in your home?

Share your favorite practices and traditions with others.

Until next time, Happy Easter!

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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

Catholic Mom@ catholicmom.com

Museum of Family Prayer@ 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.

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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