

Intro to RCIA – presentation on the Easter Vigil – October 13, 2021 – via Zoom

Part I – Where in the Liturgical Year does the Easter Vigil occur? What is the name of the liturgical season in which we celebrate the Easter Vigil?

Let's put the Easter Vigil in its proper context within the Liturgical Year.

The Sacred Paschal Triduum – the three days. But is it Thursday, Friday, Saturday? Or is it Friday, Saturday, Sunday? – Liturgical “days” are counted from Sunset to Sunset. Holy Thursday begins “in the evening” (by Canon Law pastoral explanation, after 4:00 PM).

Holy Thursday evening to Good Friday evening – 1st day – 24 hours
Good Friday evening to Holy Saturday evening – 2nd day – 48 hours
Holy Saturday evening to Easter Sunday evening – 3rd day – 72 hours

BUT – it is a SINGLE celebration that lasts for 72 hours!! It is its own liturgical season.

“The Church solemnly celebrates the greatest mysteries of our redemption, keeping by means of special celebrations the memorial of her Lord, crucified, buried, and risen.” (Roman Missal, 3rd edition, rubrics, Paschal Triduum notes.)

The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night

Rubric 1: “This is the night of keeping vigil for the Lord) Exodus 12:42), in which, following the Gospel admonition (Lk 12:35-37), the faithful, carrying lighted lamps in their hands, should be like those looking for the Lord when he returns, so that at his coming he may find them awake and have them sit at his table.”

The Easter Vigil in 4 parts:

Liturgy of Light, Liturgy of the Word, Baptismal Liturgy, Liturgy of the Eucharist

Rubric 2: “Of this night's Vigil, which is the greatest and most noble of all solemnities, there is to be only one celebration in each church. It is arranged, moreover, in such a way, that after the *Lucernarium* and Easter Proclamation (which constitutes the 1st part of the Vigil), Holy Church meditates on the wonders the Lord God has done for his people from the beginning, trusting in his word and promise (the second part, that is, the Liturgy of the Word) until, as day approaches, with new members reborn in Baptism (the third part), the Church is called to the table the Lord has prepared for his people. The memorial of his Death and Resurrection until he comes again (the fourth part).

The Mother of All Vigils

By Baptism, the Church “births” its babies in a unique and singular way.

Part II – A

Symbols of the Liturgy of Light (Solemn Beginning of the Vigil or Lucernarium) – the size of your symbols matters because symbols speak.

Darkness – Rubric 3: “The entire celebration of the Easter Vigil must take place during the night, so that it begins after nightfall and ends before daybreak on the Sunday. Easter Vigil is on April 16, 2022. Dusk (night) is at 8:25 PM in San Antonio

The Community Gathered and present

Fire

Paschal Candle

Small candles

Procession How is liturgical procession a symbol?

Easter Proclamation – Exsultet (part of your preparatory prayer for the Easter Vigil – a meditation on this text) – lights on! – Don’t wait until the Gloria

Part II – B

Symbols of the Liturgy of the Word

Invitation to the Word – the last time that the Elect will listen to the Word of God and THEN BE DISMISSED – Not Tonight!

The Community Gathered and present to LISTEN and RESPOND (how do you prepare the catechumens to respond with the Psalms – singing)

The readings – Books include **Lectionary, Roman Missal** (for the Prayer after each responsorial Psalm), **Book of the Gospels**

Rubric 20: “In this Vigil, the mother of all Vigils, nine readings are provided, namely seven from the Old Testament and two from the New (the Epistle and the Gospel), all of which should be read whenever this can be done, so that the character of the Vigil, which demands an extended period of time, may be preserved.”

Rubric 21: Nevertheless, where more serious pastoral circumstances demand it, the number of readings from the Old Testament may be reduced, always bearing in mind that the reading of the Word of God is a fundamental part of this Easter Vigil. At least three readings should be read from the Old Testament, both from the Law and from the Prophets, and their respective Responsorial Psalms should be sung. Never, moreover, should the reading of chapter 14 of Exodus with its canticle be omitted.”

Required readings, psalms, prayers: Exodus 14- NEVER Omitted – Red Sea – death to life

One from the Law (usually Genesis), and one from the Prophets (usually Isaiah)

Optional readings, psalms, prayers (what do we miss if we do not use these optional readings, psalms, and prayer?) the rest of the readings not presented above, namely . . .

** Genesis 1:1-2:2 - Creation

Psalm 104 – Lord, Send Out Your Spirit

Genesis 22:1-18 – Abraham sacrificing Isaac

Psalm 16 – Keep Me Safe, O God

** Exodus 14:15 – 15:1 – The Israelites cross the Red Sea

(Ps.) Exodus 15: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18. – Song of Miriam – Let Us Sing to the Lord; He has covered himself in Glory

Isaiah 54:5-14 – Your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel

Psalm 30 – I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.

Isaiah 56:1-11 – All you who are thirsty, come to the Water

(Ps.) Isaiah 12 – You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

Baruch 3 – Prudence, strength, understanding, peace. Such is our God; no other is to be compared to him.

Psalm 119 – Lord, You have the words of Everlasting Life (John 6, 69)

Ezekiel 36 – I will give you a new heart and place a new spirit within you

Psalm 42 – Like a deer that longs for running streams, my soul longs for you, my God.

The Gloria – Not used during Lent – How Glorious is your Gloria?

The Collect Prayer

The Epistle – letter of Paul to the Romans 6:3-11 – about Baptism

The Gospel Acclamation

The symbols of the Gospel: Deacon, Book, Candles, Incense, Posture, Acclamation, Greeting

The Gospel – from Cycle C – Luke 24:1-12 – the women with the Good News!

The Homily – aimed at whom?

**** A homework question: How do the Lenten readings from Cycle A, especially the Gospels from the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sundays of Lent correlate to the readings of the Easter Vigil?**

Part II – C

Symbols of the Baptismal Liturgy

Procession to Font accompanied by Litany of Saints, (insertion of names)

(Place of Baptism – baptistery – baptismal font – flowing water – plentiful water)

Blessing of Water – Easter Candle (symbol of fecundity)

Profession of Faith, Water, Oil (Sacred Chrism),

White Garment, Baptismal Candles, Godparents,

Community Gathered, Minister of the Sacraments, the Liturgy of Baptism

TURN IN YOUR BOOKS TO PARAGRAPH 206 (p. 123 in LTP Edition)

(See **TABLE OF CONTENTS** page in Ritual Book, pp. vi-vii) –

Under Part I: 3rd step – Celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation;

Under Part II: Rites of Particular Circumstances:

Part 1: Christian Initiation of Children Who Have Reached Catechetical Age

Part 5: Reception of Baptized Christians into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church;

Under Appendix I (Additional [Combined] Rites):

Part 4: Celebration at the Easter Vigil of the Sacraments of Initiation and of the Rite of Reception into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church

Under Appendix II (Acclamations, hymns, and psalms) – What is your relationship with the Music Ministry of the Parish? When should you be in communication with them about the Music for this liturgical celebration in particular, as well as all the other liturgical celebrations/rites of the RCIA? They ought to be integral to the process (that was my entrée into the RCIA – through the choir)

Under Appendix III (National Statutes for the Catechumenate)

See National Statutes: 10 – about the celebration of Marriage

11-13 – Minister of Baptism AND Confirmation

14-17 – about the celebration of the sacraments

18-19 – about Children of Catechetical Age

25-29 – Uncatechized Adult Catholics

30-37 – Reception into Full Catholic Communion

See also section B: Code of Canon Law, particularly Canons 842, 852, 866, 883, 885

YOU NEED TO SEE TWO BOOKS, SIDE BY SIDE – Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, promulgated in 1988, vis à vis the 3rd edition of the Roman Missal, promulgated 2011 – You will find discrepancies. The text of the Roman Missal supersedes the text of the Ritual Book.

Elements of the Baptismal Liturgy

Presentation of the Candidates – 3 options given

Invitation to pray (for the Elect to be baptized) Litany of Saints (sung) – we remain standing

Blessing of the Water – 3 options A, B, C, plus 2 more options D, E

See p. 133 – calls for an acclamation to be sung at the end of the blessing of the water – a note about working with your musicians.

Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith – should be done individually

Baptism by Immersion (of whole body or of head only), infusion

What constitutes validity and liceity? – clean water, and Trinitarian formula pronounced while pouring water by a single minister (Pastor in this case)

Explanatory Rites: [anointing, if not confirmed at this Mass], Clothing with White Baptismal Garment, Presentation of a Lighted Candle

Celebration of Confirmation

Laying on of Hands

Anointing with Chrism

The Already Baptized now renew their Baptismal Promises

Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith

Sprinkling with Baptismal Water

Part II – D

The Liturgy of the Eucharist: The preparation of Gifts, The Preface dialogue and Preface, the Eucharistic Prayer (Usually EP I – the Roman Canon), The Communion Rite.

Symbols of the Eucharist

Bread and wine – becoming Body and Blood

Community gathered around the Table of Eucharist

Four movements of Eucharist: Jesus TOOK bread, BLESSED bread, BROKE bread, GAVE bread = The Presentation of Gifts, The Eucharistic Prayer which includes the Consecration, The Fraction Rite, and Communion

(The newly initiated can bring up the gifts)

The symbols of our unity at the time of Communion

Procession to the table of Eucharist

Posture (should be standing – observe what happens usually at your parish during this time)

Singing

Partaking – Eating and Drinking the Body & Blood of the Lord

Finally the Dismissal

The Final Blessing

Text of the Exsultet – for your Meditation