

Day 8: Holy Saturday – We anticipate the Resurrection with Faith

Proclamation: On Holy Saturday, God's people wait patiently, and with great faith, for Jesus to rise from the dead. I received the gift of faith at my baptism. Faith is like a light, shining in my soul, helping me to believe. Come, Lord Jesus!

Lectio Divina: The Scripture for today says that Jesus is a living stone and that we can be living stones too. What are stones used for? They are used to build houses, buildings and even big churches. Have you ever seen a huge stone cathedral? The very first stone that is put down is called the cornerstone. It is the most important stone in the whole building. It keeps the rest of the building together and strong. In the Bible, Jesus is called the Cornerstone. What kind of house is God building? Jesus is the Cornerstone of that house and we are also stones in that building. Think about your answer as you read God's Word from one of St. Peter's letters. (St. Peter quotes the Prophet Isaiah and Psalm 118.)

Scripture: 1 Peter 2:4-10

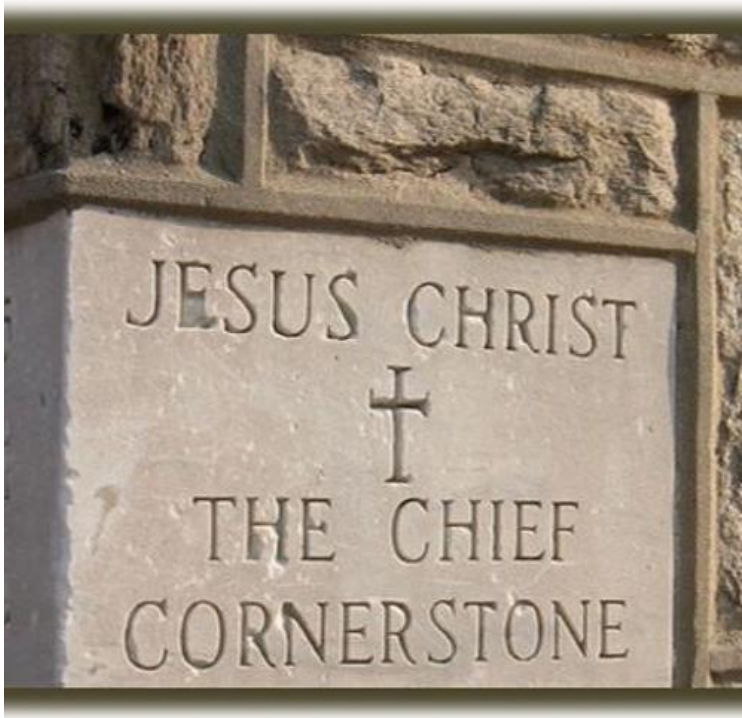
Come to him, a living stone, rejected by human beings but chosen and precious in the sight of God, and, like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house to . . . offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ, for it says in scripture:

"Behold, I am laying a stone in Zion, a cornerstone, chosen and precious, and whoever believes in it shall not be put to shame." Therefore, its value is for you who have faith . . ."

You are "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own, so that you may announce the praises" of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

Once you were "no people" but now you are God's people.

Were you able to figure out what kind of house God is building? It is the Church. The Church is all of God's people, called into a family by baptism. We are united together in faith and through the sacraments. And we follow the leadership of the pope and bishops who are Jesus' chosen representatives. (*Did you know that the Church also includes all the people in Heaven and in purgatory?*) Jesus is the Cornerstone of the *whole* Church and every baptized person is also an important stone in this holy "building". The Church is not built with actual rocks but with living people who, through the gift of faith, love and worship God. **You are a very important living stone in God's spiritual building!**



Prayer: Jesus, thank you for calling me to be a child of God and a member of the Church. I trust you as my Cornerstone, the solid rock of my life. On this holy day I am waiting patiently for the amazing and awesome moment when you will rise from the dead! Help me to be a beautiful stone, living for you, offering you my heart and my worship.

Activity 1: Worship the Lord

Here is your chance to be those living stones who announce the praises of the Lord. Like Saint Peter said in our Scripture, Jesus called us out of darkness into his marvelous light. Let us live in that light! You can even dance while you sing!

MARVELOUS LIGHT Charlie Hall

CHILDREN OF LIGHT Kristian Stanfill

THIS IS AMAZING GRACE Bethel Kids

HOUSE OF THE LORD Phil Wickham

ONE THING REMAINS Bethel Kids

RISE AND SHINE AND GIVE GOD THE GLORY Wee Sing for Children

Activity 2: Renewal of Baptismal Promises

Do you remember the day you were baptized? Maybe some of you do. Most of you probably don't – because you were a tiny baby. That's ok. On that day your mom, dad and godparents made some important promises for you. Now you are old enough to make the promises for yourself. Tonight, at the Easter Vigil Mass, the whole Church will renew their baptismal promises and you will be invited to do it too. Here is a sneak peek that you can do today at home.

Materials to have on hand (optional): Holy Water and something to remind you of your baptism – your baptism gown, your baptism candle, or a picture of you being baptized.

(The Priest says the words in **green** and you say the words in **blue**) (to *renounce* Satan means to say NO to him)

Dear brethren, through the Paschal Mystery we have been buried with Christ in Baptism, that we may walk with him in newness of life. And so, let us renew the promises of Holy Baptism, which we once renounced Satan and his works and promised to serve God in the holy Catholic Church. And so I ask you:

V. Do you renounce Satan?

R. I do.

V. And all his works?

R. I do.

V. And all his empty show?

R. I do.

V. Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?

R. I do.

V. Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered death and was buried, rose again from the dead and is seated at the right hand of the Father?

R. I do.

V. Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

R. I do.

V. And may almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and bestowed on us forgiveness of our sins, keep us by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord, for eternal life.

R. Amen.

All are sprinkled with holy water.

Activity 3: Visio Divina (praying with sacred art)



A Dominican monk named Fra Angelico is the painter. He painted all over the house where he lived with his fellow priests and brothers. Imagine walking around your house and seeing images from the Bible on the walls and ceiling everywhere you go! He wanted his friends to draw closer to Christ through art.

Look at this image for a few moments and then answer the questions.

What is Jesus doing?

Who are the people Jesus is holding out his hand to?

Do they look excited that he has come for them?

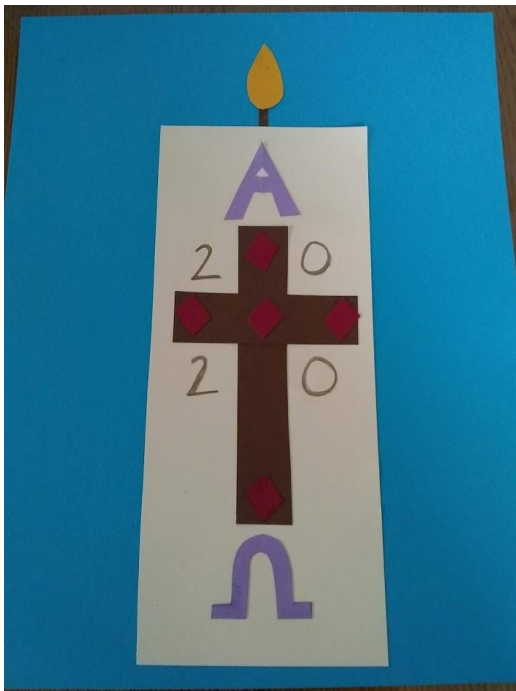
Do the demons on the left-hand side look scared of Jesus? Can you see the demon who got crushed when Jesus pushed open the door? Who is in control – God or the devil?

In the painting Jesus is welcoming those who died before the crucifixion to go to Heaven. All those holy people who died before Jesus had to go to a place known as the "bosom of Abraham" also called Sheol, people like Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jacob, Samuel. That is because Heaven was closed. When Jesus died he conquered the power of Satan and opened up the gates to Heaven. These holy people are walking to Jesus – how happy they are to see him! Like them, you are called to let God redeem you this Easter. You are called to walk into the life of light and draw others into it as well. He has called you from darkness into light just like all the holy people in this image.

Activity 4: Make your own Easter Candle

Do you remember the very tall candle that is usually kept near the baptismal font at Church? It is called the Paschal (or Easter) Candle. That candle is very important, not only during the Easter season but the whole year! Each year your parish buys a new candle and it is blessed during the Easter Vigil. During the whole Easter season (50 days) you can find it up in the sanctuary where the altar, ambo and tabernacle are. Then it is moved to the front of the church and is kept next to the baptismal font. It is lit every time a person is baptized. You can make your own Easter candle at home. Here are two ways:

PAPER PASCHAL CANDLE



The Paschal Candle is blessed at the beginning of the Easter Vigil, lit and then processed into the church. Then all the small candles that the people are holding are lit from the one flame of the Paschal Candle. Now the priest or deacon sings a very long, but beautiful prayer called the Exsultet (The Easter Proclamation). In this prayer we celebrate the power of Christ who broke down the power of death on this holy night. The light of the candle represents Jesus, our True Light. **You can listen to the [EXSULTET](#) here while you make your candle!**

WAX PASCHAL CANDLE

Click on this [LINK](#) for an article in *Faith Magazine* about how to make this wax paschal candle.



Symbolism on the Paschal Candle, with the words spoken at the Easter Vigil as the candle is blessed:

The vertical beam of the cross – “Christ yesterday and today”

The horizontal beam of the cross – “the Beginning and the End”

(The Greek letters ALPHA, looks like our letter A, and OMEGA, looks like an upside down U, also mean that Jesus is the beginning and the end.)

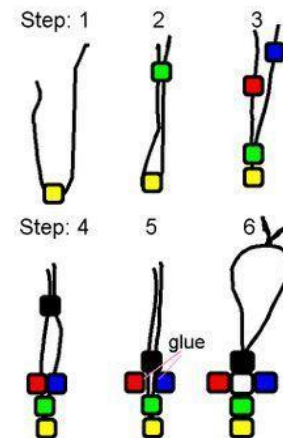
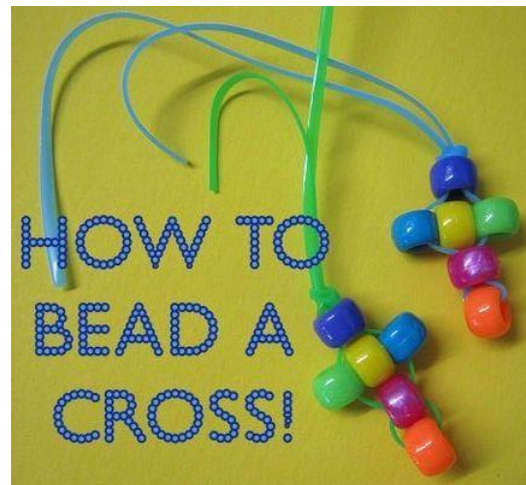
When the numbers are placed on the candle for the current year, **2025**, the priest says “All time belongs to him and all the ages. To him be glory and power through every age and forever.”

The five jewels on the cross represent the five wounds that Jesus received. The priest says “By his holy and glorious wounds, may Christ the Lord guard us and protect us.”

Activity 5: Make some Easter decorations

Easter Craft Ideas

Here are some Catholic and secular Easter craft Ideas that vary in difficulty in order to provide fun options for all ages (links on the last page will take you to websites with more craft ideas)



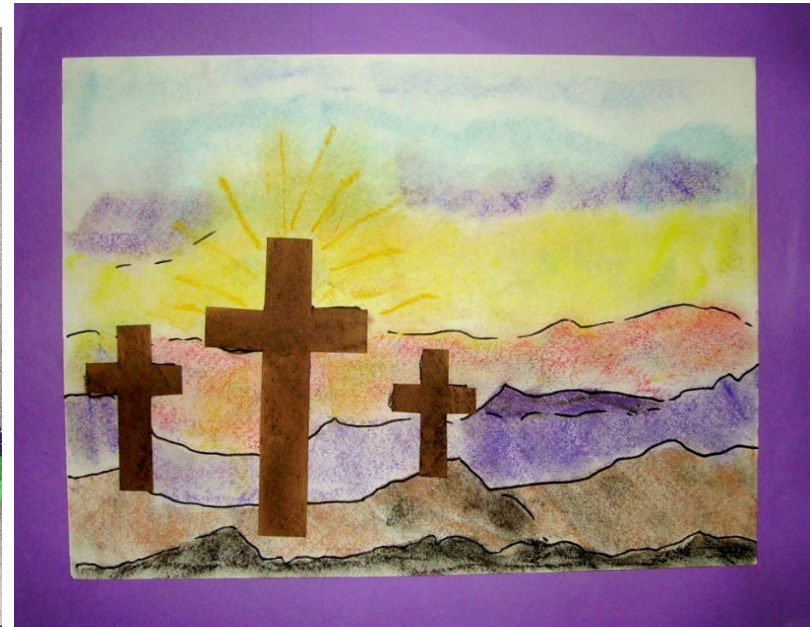


For the Easter egg wreath, draw and cut out an egg shape in the size you want. Trace onto colored paper, and cut shapes out. Glue onto the cut-out edge of a paper plate. To add a unique touch, draw and color Easter designs onto plain paper then use that for your eggs.



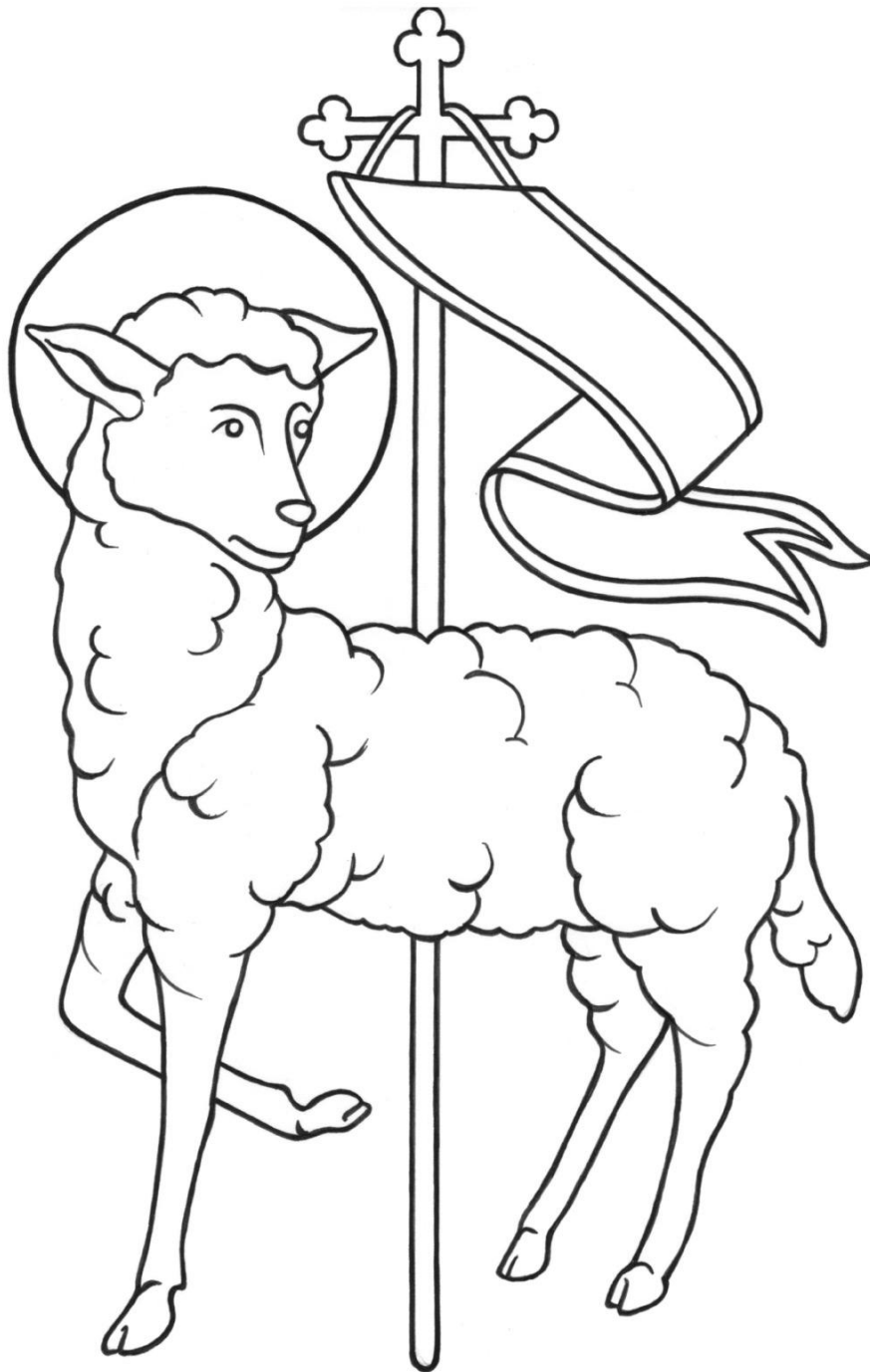
Tips to make the animals:

- Use construction paper or card stock and cut into strips.
- Fold or cut the paper to make the different shapes then tape, staple, or glue together.
- For the bird and the chick use 2-inch wide paper; for the bunny use 1 ½ inch wide paper.
- For the bird, taping or stapling pieces of paper together to make longer strips is useful.



[EASTER LILY CRAFT](#) (follow link for directions)

Check out lots of other great ideas on [CATHOLIC ICING](#)



Pascal Lamb coloring page:

The picture represents the risen Jesus, the Lamb of God, waving a flag of Victory over sin and death. To print out a full-sized coloring page, click here:

<https://getdrawings.com/images/lamb-of-god-drawing-24.jpg>, from TheCatholicKid.com