



This is the night of keeping vigil for the Lord. According to the Church's ancient tradition, the Sacraments may not be celebrated today --- Holy Communion may only be given as Viaticum to the dying --- nor may the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass be celebrated prior to the Easter Vigil Mass. The liturgical color for the Easter Vigil is WHITE; the altar servers will wear the GOLD cinctures.

The Easter Vigil is divided into four parts:

- *The Lucernarium (Service of Light)*
 - *Blessing of the Easter Fire and Paschal Candle*
 - *The Exsultet (Easter Proclamation)*
- *The Liturgy of the Word*
 - *Three readings from the Old Testament, with Responsorials – these may vary from year to year, but Exodus 14: 15 – 15: 1 may never be omitted*
 - *One Reading (Romans 6: 3-11) from the New Testament*
 - *The reading of the Gospel (Mark 16: 1-7)*
 - *The Homily*
- *The Baptismal Liturgy*
 - *Chanting of the Litany of the Saints*
 - *Blessing of the Baptismal water*
 - *Baptism and Confirmation of catechumen(s), if any*
 - *Confirmation of candidate(s) for full admission into the Church, if any*
 - *Renewal of Baptismal Promises and sprinkling with Easter water*
- *The Liturgy of the Eucharist*

Celebrant: Fr. Jim Holland
Concelebrants: Fr. Fred Cain
Master of Ceremonies: Joe Smagala
Lectors: Vicki Mlinarcik
 Pat Connell
 Mary Grasha-Haupt
 Ken Murphy

Altar Servers:
 Crossbearer: Makenzie Cypher
 Thurifer: Giovanni Zottola
 Boat Bearer: Philomena Salera
 Acolyte: Charlotte Salera
 Acolyte: Lauren Micale
 Ass't M/C: Francesco Zottola

Preliminary Preparations:

- The Tabernacle is open and empty; the Blessed Sacrament is still reserved in the tabernacle in the sacristy, where the sanctuary lamp remains lighted.
- The altar candles are not lighted, and there should be no votive candles lighted.
- The crucifix and statues are uncovered.
- All lights in the church are turned off, except at the ambo and directly over the altar.
- Everyone (except any catechumens to be baptized) in the congregation holds an unlighted candle.
- On the altar:
 - Book of Gospels
- On the ambo:
 - Roman Missal (altar copy) opened to the Easter Proclamation
 - Lectionary (marked for the proper readings) on the shelf
 - Book light
- At the seats:
 - Unlighted hand candles
 - Small book light or flashlight
 - Altar bells
- In the Sanctuary:
 - Empty stand for the Easter candle
 - Holy Water dispenser, filled with water
 - Holy oils for celebration of Baptism and Confirmation
 - Holy water pot filled with water, and sprinkler
 - Vessels for filling the holy water fonts at the doors of the church
 - Five chairs:
 - On the Baptismal Font side -- Makenzie, Charlotte, Lauren
 - On the Credence Table side – Francesco, Giovanni, Philomena
 - Unlighted hand candles for everyone
 - Processional cross and unlighted processional candles in their stands (Baptismal Font side)
 - Censer stand (near the credence table)
- At the place where the Easter fire will be blessed:
 - Receptacle for the fire, with fuel and lighter
 - Censer (with charcoal) and incense boat
 - The Roman Missal (small copy used at the chair)
 - Easter Candle, wax nails, and stylus or knife
 - A few votive candle lighter sticks
 - Candles for those in the procession
 - Small flashlight
 - Old Holy Oils to be burned
- At the Baptismal Font:
 - Baptism, Confirmation, and OCIA ritual texts (if needed)
 - Baptismal shells and candles

The Service of Light

Blessing of the Easter Fire:

- As many of the congregation as possible gather outside (weather permitting). If weather conditions are unfavorable, the blessing of the fire will take place on a smaller scale indoors.
- Giovanni (with censer)
- Philomena (with incense boat)
- Makenzie (with Roman Missal for blessing the fire and Easter candles)
- Fr. Cain (with St. Victor Easter candle)
- Lauren (with Transfiguration Easter candle)
- Charlotte (with hand candles)
- Joe and Francesco (will assist in any way necessary)
- Fr. Jim and Fr. Cain
 - Fr. Jim blesses the new fire
 - Fr. Jim blesses both Easter candles
 - Fr. Jim lights ONLY the St. Victor Easter candle from the new fire; the Transfiguration Easter candle is set aside and will be taken over to Transfiguration Church after Mass.
 - Fr. Jim puts incense in the censer
 - The entrance procession is formed

Entrance Procession:

- Thurifer (Giovanni) with lighted censer and boat bearer (Philomena) with incense boat
- Fr. Jim with the St. Victor Easter Candle
- Fr. Cain, Joe, Francesco, Makenzie, Charlotte and Lauren with unlighted hand candles
- At the end of the center aisle, the procession stops and Fr. Jim sings "The Light of Christ". Everyone responds "Thanks be to God."
- The procession moves to the middle of the church in the center aisle and stops. Again, Fr. Jim sings "The Light of Christ", and everyone responds "Thanks be to God."
- Fr. Cain, Joe, Francesco, Makenzie, Charlotte and Lauren light their candles from the Easter candle and then light the candles of the people in a few pews on either side of the aisle. THE PROCESSION PAUSES FOR A FEW MOMENTS as the people light each other's candles.
- The procession moves to the front of the altar and stops. All turn toward the congregation and Fr. Jim sings "The Light of Christ" a third time. Everyone responds "Thanks be to God".
- **The church lights are not yet turned on, and the entire church remains in darkness.**
- Giovanni (with censer) and Philomena (with incense boat) go to the Easter Candle stand.
- Fr. Jim inserts the St. Victor Easter Candle into its stand and incenses it with three double swings of the censer.
- Everyone goes to their seats, and candles are lighted for those who do not yet have them.
- After the singing of the Exsultet by Fr. Jim, all of the hand candles are extinguished.
- Francesco moves the Missal from the ambo to the bookstand on the credence table.

Liturgy of the Word

- **At this point, the church is still dark. We will use small book lights or flashlights for the lectors, musicians and Fr. Jim so that the church remains darkened during the Old Testament readings.**
- Fr. Jim returns to the chair. Joe holds the Missal and Fr. Cain holds the flashlight while Fr. Jim reads the opening prayer.
- The lector (Vicki Mlinarcik) reads the first Old Testament reading ([Genesis 1: 1 – 2: 2](#))
- The choir sings the first Responsorial ([Psalm 104: 1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35](#))
- Joe holds the missal and Fr. Cain holds the flashlight while Fr. Jim reads the prayer
- The lector (Pat Connell) reads the second Old Testament reading ([Exodus 14: 15 – 15: 1](#))
- The choir sings the second Responsorial ([Exodus 15: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18](#))
- Joe holds the missal and Fr. Cain holds the flashlight while Fr. Jim reads the prayer
- The lector (Mary Grasha-Houpt) reads the third Old Testament reading ([Isaiah 55: 1-11](#))
- The choir sings the third Responsorial ([Isaiah 12: 2-3, 4, 5-6](#))
- Joe holds the missal and Fr. Cain holds the flashlight while Fr. Jim reads the prayer

***** NOTE TO LECTORS AND MUSIC MINISTRY *****

At the conclusion of the prayer following the third Old Testament reading, the next lector (Ken Murphy) **DOES NOT** come up to the ambo for the New Testament reading yet. Instead, the choir **immediately** begins the singing of the “Gloria”.

- When the singing of the “Gloria” begins:
 - **Joe and Francesco turn on all of the lights in the church and the outdoor carillon bells.**
 - Charlotte rings the altar bells throughout the entire hymn.
 - Makenzie and Lauren light the altar candles and processional candles from the Easter candle.
- At the conclusion of the Gloria, Joe holds the Missal while Fr. Jim reads the Collect.
- The lector (Ken Murphy) reads the New Testament reading ([Romans 6: 3-11](#))
- The choir sings the Responsorial ([Psalm 118: 1-2, 16-17, 22-23](#))

At the Gospel:

- Giovanni (with censer) and Philomena (with incense boat) proceed directly to Fr. Jim at the chair.
- The Processional candles are not carried at the Gospel.
- Fr. Jim puts incense in the censer.
- Giovanni and Philomena return and both stand at the side of the altar nearest the ambo.
- When Fr. Jim takes the Book of Gospels from the altar and turns toward the ambo, Giovanni and Philomena turn with him and lead him in a short procession to the ambo. At the ambo, Giovanni and Philomena both stand to Fr. Jim’s right.
- Fr. Jim incenses the Book of Gospels at the ambo before reading the Gospel.
- Giovanni and Philomena return to their seats after Fr. Jim reads the Gospel ([Mark 16: 1-7](#)).

Baptismal Liturgy

- After the homily, Fr. Jim and Fr. Cain go to the Baptismal Font, accompanied by Joe and Makenzie.
- Makenzie holds the Missal throughout the Baptismal Liturgy
- Charlotte, Philomena, Lauren and Giovanni, using their hand candles, light the candles of the people in the pews and return to their seats; Francesco goes to the Baptismal Font with Joe and Makenzie to assist as necessary.
- Fr. Jim invites those to be baptized and /or confirmed, along with their Godparents or sponsors, to come forward to the Baptismal Font.
- The Litany of the Saints is sung by cantor(s) and/or choir.
- Fr. Jim blesses the Baptismal font and holy water, assisted by Fr. Cain and Joe as needed. Francesco will bring the Easter candle from the ambo to the Baptismal Font for the blessing of the water.
- Charlotte and Lauren fill the holy water fonts at the doors of the church and then return to their seats.
- Fr. Jim reads the Renewal of Baptismal Promises, after which he walks around the church and sprinkles the people with holy water. Philomena carries the holy water bucket. All others return to their seats.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

At the Offertory:

- Francesco and Giovanni will prepare the altar.
- Fr. Jim, Charlotte, Philomena and Lauren receive the gifts from the presenters (newly baptized and confirmed OCIA candidates).
- After Fr. Jim pours the wine and water into the chalice, Charlotte and Lauren wait by the credence table. ***Do not bring the water, dish and towel yet.***
- Giovanni and Philomena immediately bring the censer and boat to the altar.
- Fr. Jim incenses the altar, then gives the censer to Giovanni.
- Facing Fr. Jim, Giovanni and Philomena:
 - Bow
 - Giovanni incenses Fr. Jim with three double swings of the censer
 - Bow again
 - Giovanni and Philomena then proceed to incense Fr. Cain in the same manner:
- Giovanni and Philomena take the censer and incense boat to the front of the altar. Giovanni motions for the people to stand, all bow toward the congregation, Giovanni incenses the congregation with three double swings (center, left, right), all bow again, and all return to their seats.
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- While Giovanni is incensing the congregation, Charlotte and Lauren bring the water, dish and towel to the altar, and Fr. Jim washes his hands. When this is completed, Charlotte and Lauren return to the Baptismal Font side, get the processional candles, and wait with Makenzie near the seats. Giovanni (with censer) and Philomena (with incense boat) wait near the credence table.

During the Eucharistic Prayer:

- At the singing of the “Sanctus” (“Holy, holy, holy”), all will move to the steps at the foot of the altar:
 - Charlotte and Lauren, with processional candles, from the Baptismal Font side.
 - Giovanni (with censer), Philomena (with incense boat) and Francesco (from the credence table side).
 - Makenzie, to the altar bells
 - Joe, from the seats to wherever.
- All face the altar and kneel on the floor – not on the step.
- Giovanni or Francesco puts some incense in the censer, if needed.
- At both the elevation of the Host and the elevation of the chalice:
 - Makenzie rings the bells *three times*
 - Giovanni incenses the Blessed Sacrament with *three triple swings* of the censer

At Communion:

- After the “Our Father”, all stand, bow to the altar, and return to the area near their seats. Charlotte and Lauren put the candles back into the stands. All remain there until after Communion.
- All servers receive Holy Communion on either side the altar. ***Do not go down the steps to the front of the altar to receive Communion.***
After receiving Communion, all return to their seats.

After Communion:

- Giovanni and Francesco assist in removing the Missal, bookstand, and vessels from the altar, then return to their seats.
- Joe holds the book for the closing prayer.
- After the closing prayer, Makenzie gets the cross, Charlotte and Lauren get the processional candles, Giovanni gets the censer and Philomena gets the incense boat. All wait until the final blessing and dismissal.

At the end of Mass:

- Giovanni (with censer) and Philomena (with incense boat).
- Makenzie (with the processional cross), flanked by Charlotte and Lauren (with the processional candles)
- Joe and Francesco
- Fr. Jim and Fr. Cain