

Easter Vigil (2026)

Well, here we are. This is one of those rare Saturday nights when we find ourselves sitting in a church at such a late hour. And yet, we are here.

On this night, our eyes and ears are opened to all the wonders of the mystery that help us make sense of who we are.

On this night, our minds and hearts are given a “once-a-year glimpse” into the splendor and richness of the Catholic faith, celebrated for over 2,000 years.

This is the night of the Passover of the Lord.

From the pages of Sacred Scripture, we have listened to what makes this night possible: Creation, Freedom, Promise, and Resurrection.

We recall the Divine relationships God established over the centuries with the universe, Abraham, Moses, and the Hebrew people.

Moments of testing and triumph—failure and freedom—persistence and promise.

And despite all that humankind has done to distance itself from the intimate relationship of love that God desires for every one of us, God became one like us in the person of his only Begotten Son.

An only Son, who, although being born in our likeness, emptied himself, took upon his shoulders the wood of the cross, and obediently surrendered his life— so great was his love for us.

And when we step back, and quietly ponder the wonder of this mystery— played out before our eyes over these past three days— we can only hope to say:

If God had promised us a savior and not sent us his only beloved Son, it would have been enough!

If God had sent us Jesus, his only beloved Son, and he had not become our very brother, it would have been enough!

If Jesus had become our brother and not shared our joy and sorrows, our laughter, and tears, it would have been enough!

However, what would *never* have been enough was a cross without an empty tomb.

Nothing before and nothing after the Resurrection of the Christ will ever capture the height, depth, and breadth of how much God loves us.

In both darkness and light, there is so much that fills our hearts with joy— including those among us who will share in the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist.

So privileged we are to have them with us tonight. They have been on a journey throughout these forty days of Lent: purifications and Scrutinies, presentations and anointings, conversion and penance.

In the sacred signs and symbols that make up the Sacraments of Initiation, the Church bestows upon our brothers and sisters: the water bath of new birth, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and the nourishment of Christ's Body and Blood.

Our sisters and brothers will make their profession of faith as an expression of their desire to be one with us as members of Christ's mystical body.

They have sought our guidance and our prayers. I hope they have benefited from our example and teaching. They have been set free from temptation and turmoil.

We do not pretend that life is all beauty. We are keenly aware of darkness and sin, of poverty and pain. But we believe that Jesus has conquered sin and passed through his own suffering to the glory of the Resurrection.

For the next fifty days of joy and jubilation, let us live in the light of the Paschal Mystery—the mystery of Christ's Death and Resurrection.

“We are an Easter People, and Alleluia is our song!”

