

HE IS RISEN!

Easter Vigil 2024



*St. Mary's
Catholic Parish
Dartmouth, MA*

Easter Vigil (Holy Saturday)

Many wonder why the celebration of the Easter Vigil is so late. It must take place at night, so that it begins after nightfall (sunset) and ends before daybreak on Sunday. Tonight marks the beginning of the Easter Season as we proclaim that Jesus Christ has risen from the dead. Upon entering the church, we will be entering into total darkness. This symbolizes the darkness of the tomb and Jesus' death on the cross.

Part One: The Solemn Beginning of the Vigil or Lucernarium

THE BLESSING OF THE FIRE AND THE PREPARATION OF THE CANDLE

A large fire is prepared outside where the new paschal candle will be prepared for use throughout the year. Once the candle has been prepared and pierced with nails representing the five wounds of Christ, the light of the resurrected Christ will process through the darkened church and it's light will be spread throughout the four corners of the church.

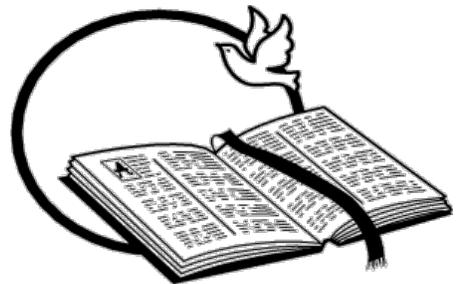
PROCESSION

THE EASTER PROCLAMATION (EXSULTET)

Part Two: The Liturgy of the Word

During the Liturgy of the Word, there are three Old Testament readings and two New Testament readings. The readings depict our Salvation History from the dawn of creation. After each reading the responsorial psalm is sung then all members of the congregation stand followed by a prayer from Fr. Bill. All may sit after each prayer. Since the church is in darkness during the Liturgy of the Word, the readings are not printed.

FIRST READING	Genesis 1:1-2:2
SECOND READING	Exodus 14:15-15:1
THIRD READING	Ezekiel 36:16-17a, 18-28



After the last reading from the Old Testament with it's Responsorial Psalm and prayer, the altar candles are lit, the church bells ring and the "Gloria" is sung.

GLORIA.....Mass of Renewal

RF: Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to people of goodwill.

COLLECT

Let us Pray. O, God who make this most sacred night radiant with the glory of the Lord's Resurrection, stir up in your Church a spirit of adoption, so that, renewed in body and mind, we may render you undivided service. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

EPISTLE

Brothers and sisters: Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life.

For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection. We know that our old self was crucified with him, so that our sinful body might be done away

with, that we might no longer be in slavery to sin. For a dead person has been absolved from sin. If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him. As to his death, he died to sin once and for all; as to his life, he lives for God. Consequently, you too must think of yourselves as being dead to sin and living for God in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION..... ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA (Haugen)

GOSPEL..... Matthew 28:1-10

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the Holy Gospel
according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, approached, rolled back the stone, and sat upon it.

His appearance was like lightning and his clothing was white as snow. The guards were shaken with fear of him and became like dead men.

Then the angel said to the women in reply,

“Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ Behold, I have told you.” Then they went away quickly from the tomb, fearful yet overjoyed, and ran to announce this to his disciples.

And behold, Jesus met them on their way and greeted them. They approached, embraced his feet, and did him homage.

Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Part Three: Baptismal Liturgy

At this time the adults who have prepared for baptism as members of our Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults are called forward along with their sponsors.

Deacon: Will those seeking to be baptized into the Christian Faith please come forward.

INVITATION TO PRAYER - Fr. Bill

Dearly beloved, with one heart and one soul, let us by our prayers come to the aid of Kaylin and Robert, in their blessed hope, so that, as they approach the font of rebirth, the almighty Father may bestow on them all his merciful help.

LITANY OF THE SAINTS.....(Becker, John)

Cantor: Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

Cantor: Christ, have mercy.

ALL: Christ, have mercy.

Cantor: Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy. (after each saint invocation.)

1-4.) ALL: Pray for us. Pray for us. RF. #1

(after "Lord be merciful.")

5.) ALL: Lord, deliver us, we pray. Lord, deliver us, we pray. RF. #1

(after "Be merciful to us sinners.")

6.) ALL: Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer. Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer. RF. #2

RF. #1 All you holy men and women, pray for us.

RF. #2 Christ, hear us. Christ, graciously hear us.



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PRAYER AFTER THE LITANY

Fr. Bill

Almighty ever-living God, be present by the mysteries of your great love and send forth the spirit of adoption to create the new peoples brought to birth for you in the font of Baptism, so that what is to be carried out by your humble service may be brought to fulfillment by your mighty power. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen

BLESSING OF THE WATER

Fr. Bill

O God, who by invisible power accomplish a wondrous effect through sacramental signs and who in many ways have prepared water, your creation, to show forth the grace of Baptism;

O God, whose Spirit in the first moments of the world's creation hovered over the waters, so that the very substance of water would even then take to itself the power to sanctify;

O God, who by the outpouring of the flood foreshadowed regeneration, so that from the mystery of one and the same element of water would come an end to vice and a beginning of virtue;

O God, who caused the children of Abraham to pass dry-shod through the Red Sea, so that the chosen people, set free from slavery to Pharaoh, would prefigure the people of the baptized;

commanded his disciples: "Go forth, teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," look now, we pray, upon the face of your Church and graciously unseal for her the fountain of Baptism.

May this water receive by the Holy Spirit the grace of your Only Begotten Son, so that human nature, created in your image and washed clean through the Sacrament of Baptism from all the squalor of the life of old, may be found worthy to rise to the life of newborn children through water and the Holy Spirit.

May the power of the Holy Spirit, O Lord, we pray, come down through your Son into the fullness of this font, so that all who have been buried with Christ

by Baptism into death may rise again to life with him. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

O God, whose Son, baptized by John in the waters of the Jordan, was anointed with the Holy Spirit, and, as he hung upon the Cross, gave forth water from his side along with blood, and after his Resurrection, commanded his disciples: "Go forth, teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the son and of the holy spirit," look now, we pray, upon the face of your Church and graciously unseal for her the fountain of Baptism.

May this water receive by the holy spirit the grace of your only Begotten son, so that human nature, created in your image and washed clean through the sacrament of Baptism from all the squalor of the life of old, may be found worthy to rise to the life of newborn children through water and the holy spirit.

May the power of the Holy Spirit, O Lord, we pray, come down through your Son into the fullness of this font,

ALL: Amen.

At this time, Fr. Bill will ask the baptismal candidates a series of questions to which they will reply "I do." He is asking the candidates to renounce sin and profess their faith to God and the Church.

FR. BILL: Do you reject Satan?

CANDIDATE: I do.

FR. BILL: And all his works?

CANDIDATE: I do.

FR. BILL: And all his empty show?

CANDIDATE: I do.

FR. BILL: Kataryna, Zakary and Cody, do you believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?

CANDIDATE: **I do.**

FR. BILL: 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?

CANDIDATE: **I do.**

FR. BILL: 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?

CANDIDATE: **I do.**

BAPTISM

Fr. Bill will baptize each candidate by pouring water over their heads. Their godparents will place their right hand on the right shoulder of the candidate as Fr. Bill pours the water over them three times—baptizing them in the name of the Holy Trinity.

CLOTHING WITH A BAPTISMAL GARMENT

Fr. Bill

Assisted by their godparents, the newly baptized will be adorned with a white garment symbolizing that they are a new creation , a new member of Christ’s Body.

Kataryna, Zakary and Cody, you have become a new creation and have clothed yourselves in Christ. Receive this baptismal garment and bring it unstained to the judgment seat of our Lord Jesus Christ, so that you may have everlasting life.

ALL: Amen.

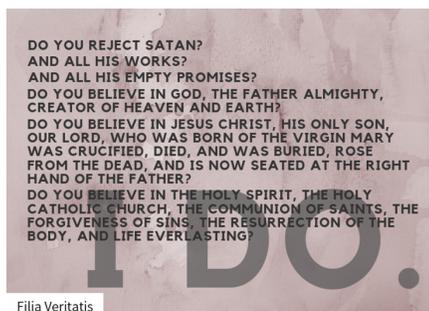
PRESENTATION OF A LIGHTED CANDLE

Fr. Bill touches the Paschal Candle and calls up the godparents to receive the Light of Christ and present it to the Newly Baptized. Once the Newly Baptized and their godparents return to their seats, the people’s tapers are relit.

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

Candidates for Confirmation and their sponsors come forward.

People stand and tapers are relit. Confirmation Candidates and Sponsors come forward.



FR. BILL: Dear friends, through the Paschal Mystery we have been buried with Christ in Baptism, so that we may walk with him in newness of life. And so, now that our Lenten observance is concluded, let us renew the promises of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and his works and promised to serve God in the holy Catholic Church. And so I ask you:
Do you reject Satan?

ALL: I do.

FR. BILL: And all his works?

ALL: I do.

FR. BILL: And all his empty show?

ALL: I do.

FR. BILL: Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?

ALL: I do.

FR. BILL: 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?

ALL: I do.

FR. BILL: 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?

ALL: I do.

FR. BILL: 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.

ALL: Amen.

SPRINKLING WITH BAPTISMAL WATER

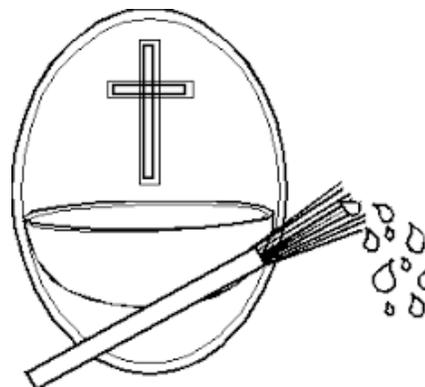
The people are blessed with the baptismal water. Once sprinkled, it is customary to bless yourself with the sign of the †

HYMN..... River of Glory (Hurd)

Come, O come, come to the river
flowing from-- the body of Christ.
We'll go down, deep in the water,
but in the Lord---- we shall arise.

- 1) Washed in the waters of rebirth,
we have put on Christ Jesus.
- 2) Priestly people are we
sealed and send by the Spirit.

- 3) Blest are those who thirst
for the reign of God's justice



CONCLUSION OF SPRINKLING RITE

God, the all-powerful Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and forgiven all our sins. May he also keep us faithful to our Lord Jesus Christ for ever and ever.

ALL: Amen

CELEBRATION OF CONFIRMATION

*As the Newly Baptized and those preparing for confirmation go with their sponsors before Fr. Bill. He will address those to be confirmed. During this time, the choir chants **Veni Sancte Spiritus**.*

TO THE CANDIDATES:

My dear candidates for confirmation, by our baptism you have been born again in Christ and you have become members of Christ and of his priestly people. Now you are to share in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit among us, the Spirit sent by the Lord upon his apostles at Pentecost and given by them and their successors to the baptized.

The promised strength of the Holy Spirit, which you are to receive, will make you more like Christ and help you to be witnesses to his suffering,

death and resurrection. It will strengthen you to be active members of the Church and to build up the Body of Christ in faith and love.

With hands joined, Fr. Bill then addresses the people.

My dear friends, let us pray to God our Father, that he will pour out the Holy Spirit on these candidates for confirmation to strengthen them with his gifts and anoint them to be more like Christ, the Son of God.

(All pray briefly in silence)

LAYING ON OF HANDS

In the Catholic Church, the Laying on of Hands symbolizes not only the reception of the Holy Spirit but also signifies that we are designated for service in Jesus' name. Fr. Bill will lay his hands on each of the candidates.

All-powerful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by water and the Holy Spirit you freed your sons and daughters from sin and gave them new life.

Send your Holy Spirit upon them to be their helper and guide.

Give them the spirit of wisdom and

understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence. Fill them with the spirit of wonder and awe in your presence.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.



ANOINTING WITH CHRISM

Each candidates' godparent places his/her hand on the right shoulder of the candidate. Fr. Bill then dips his right thumb in the Chrism and makes the sign of the cross on each candidate's forehead instructing them to "Be Sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit." After each has been anointed, the Newly Confirmed return to their seats.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

Part Four: The Liturgy of the Eucharist

PRESENTATION & PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

(CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT (Bernadette Farrell).

Newly Confirmed bring up the gifts

This is the night of new beginnings.
This is the night when heaven meets earth.
This is the night filled with God's glory,
Promise of our new birth!
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your Church
Gathered today.
This is the night Christ our redeemer
Rose from the grave triumphant and free,

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER & SIGN OF PEACE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The Confirmed, along with their sponsors, will be called into the sanctuary. The Newly Baptized and Confirmed will receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist for the first time. After they have returned to their seats, the people may come forward to receive the Body of Christ.

COMMUNION HYMNTAKE AND EAT (James Quinn)

I am the Word that spoke and light was made
I am the seed that died to be re-born
I am the bread that comes from heaven above
I am the vine that fills your cup with joy
Take and eat, take and eat
This is my body given up for you
Take and drink, take and drink
This is my blood given up for you

Take and eat, take and eat
This is my body given up for you
Take and drink, take and drink
This is my blood given up for you

I am the way that leads the exile home
I am the truth that sets the captive free
I am the life that raises up the dead
I am your peace, true peace my gift to you

I am the Lamb that takes away your sin
I am the gate that guards you night and day
You are my flock you know the shepherd's voice
You are my own, your ransom is my blood

RECESSIONAL HYMNAlleluia, Alleluia (Beethoven)

Alleluia, alleluia! Hearts to Heav'n and voices raise
Sing to God a hymn of gladness, sing to God a hymn of
praise

He, who on the cross a Victim, for the world's salvation
bled
Jesus Christ, the King of glory, now is risen from the
dead.



Acknowledgments

Thank you to Fr Bill, Fr Stephen and Deacon Frank for leading us through the journey of the Sacred Paschal Triduum.

A special thanks to David Arruda for leading the choir, cantors and accompanists in song.

Congratulations to our Neophytes - the newly Baptized! May the Lord continue to bless them and guide them as they continue their faith journey over the coming years!

Thank you to the parish staff and all of our volunteers who helped prepare our parish for the celebration of this Holy Week.

Most of all, thanks to all of YOU, parishioners and guests, for taking time to pray and celebrate with us. We hope that you continue to find St. Mary's Dartmouth to be a warm, inviting and prayerful community. All are welcome!

May the Peace of our Risen Lord be always with you!

