

# LITURGY BYTES *continued*

## The Vigil and Beyond...



To continue our look at the Triduum, the final piece of these three days occurs on Holy Saturday in the evening, commonly known as the Easter Vigil.

Holy Saturday is the day when Christ is in the tomb. There are no daytime Masses on Holy Saturday. It is still a day of some sorrow for everyone. We recall with Mary and the disciples that Jesus died and was separated from them for the first time as He lay in the tomb.

A Vigil Mass is held after nightfall on Holy Saturday, in celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. This is the most glorious, beautiful, and dramatic liturgy for the Church. It is divided into four parts and lasts much longer than a regular Sunday Mass. The parts of this celebration are as follows: the Service of Light, the Liturgy of the Word, the Liturgy of Baptism, and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. This is also the Mass in which people wishing to be Catholic are brought into the Church.

The Easter Vigil tells the entire story of our salvation—from creation to resurrection and beyond. The extra length of it should not deter you from attending and experiencing this celebration. The beauty of the lighting of the new Easter candle and the singing of the Easter proclamation, also known as the Exsultet, surround the ritual of this night along with the renewal of our Baptismal promises. It is one of the most glorious experiences for all in attendance.

Easter Sunday has everyone on a special high as we bring back the Alleluia, add extra Alleluias and the singing of the Gloria in our celebrations of the great 50 days. Rejoice, the Lord is risen as He said!!! May we all experience the joy of new life in our own way this Easter. Have a most blessed and joyful Easter!



*Michele Hall*