

Holy Saturday



What is Holy Saturday?

Holy Saturday is a day of waiting. After Jesus died on Friday, the disciples were scared and went to hide in the Upper Room together, for fear of death. We wait with the Apostles in the Upper Room, as the body of Jesus lies in the tomb. Today is a day for silence and prayer as we wait for Jesus to return to us.



Spiritual Reading

"Today there is a great silence over the earth, a great silence, and stillness, a great silence because the King sleeps; the earth was in terror and was still, because God slept in the flesh and raised up those who were sleeping from the ages. God has died in the flesh, and the underworld has trembled. Truly he goes to seek out our first parent like a lost sheep; he wishes to visit those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death. He goes to free the prisoner Adam and his fellow-prisoner Eve from their pains, he who is God, and Adam's son. The Lord goes in to them holding his victorious weapon, his cross."

- Ancient Homily on Holy Saturday



Open the Word

"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."

(Romans 6:3-5)

Read today's readings including the whole passage used at the Easter Vigil Liturgy in **Romans 6:3-11**.



Did You Know?

The Paschal Candle, lit for the first time tonight, is relit every time there is a baptism and funeral at your parish throughout the year.



Holy Week At Home

Watch Easter Vigil Mass with Archbishop Gregory today at 8:00pm.

Typically, at the Easter Vigil Liturgy celebrated tonight, each person is given a candle. Mass begins in darkness as one large Paschal Candle is lit. From the Paschal Candle the light spreads person to person until the whole church is illuminated. Tonight, illuminate your neighborhood. Place a light in the windows of your home to bear witness to the light of Christ that we will encounter on Easter Sunday.



Let Us Pray

Loving God, We celebrate your saving work through our ancestors in faith, the Resurrection of your Son, and in our own lives today. Give us the courage to confront the darkness of this world, knowing that the Risen Christ brings light and life to all. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen
(*Liturgical Press, Holy Week at Home*)



For Children

Download the image of a cross in **English or Spanish**.
Draw a picture of a candle.



Archdiocese of Washington

#ADWHolyWeek

Prayer moves us to action. Contact your local parish or **Catholic Charities** if you are in need of assistance or would like to be of assistance to others.