



Easter Season Family Resource

What is it?

Did you know that Easter is more than just one Sunday? Easter is a full season! This year, we are encouraging families to continue celebrating the joy of Christ by transforming your prayer space from a Lenten Desert into an Easter Garden!

When is it?

-This year Easter begins on March 31 (Easter Sunday) and ends May 19 (Pentecost).

-Just like in our Lenten Desert, we will be adding another element to our prayer space every Sunday during that time.

-How you choose to prayerfully celebrate during that time is up to you and your family! You may choose to continue your journey with Scripture, or try a new form of prayer! Even creating art together, making a special dessert, or eating a family meal can be a beautiful prayer around your Easter Garden when you invite Jesus to join you.

Why?

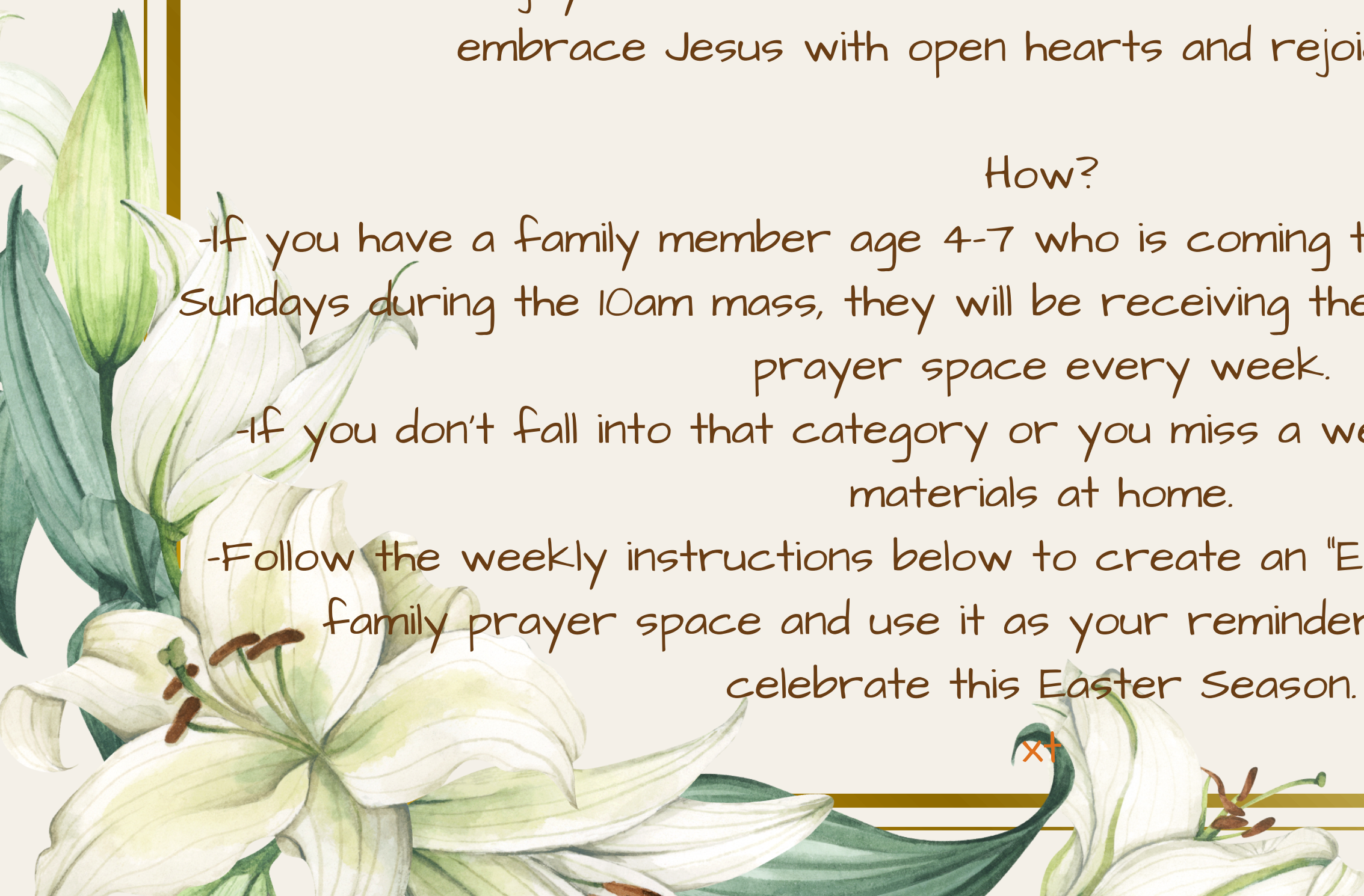
-During Lent, we grew stronger through praying, fasting and giving. We made space for God in our hearts and in our homes. Now during Easter, it is time to celebrate the joy of the Risen Christ! All of that Lenten growth allows us to embrace Jesus with open hearts and rejoice together.

How?

-If you have a family member age 4-7 who is coming to Children's Program on Sundays during the 10am mass, they will be receiving their addition to your family prayer space every week.

-If you don't fall into that category or you miss a week, collect decorating materials at home.

-Follow the weekly instructions below to create an "Easter Garden" for your family prayer space and use it as your reminder to gather together and celebrate this Easter Season.





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Week 1: March 31: Easter Sunday

Happy Easter! He is Risen! Truly, He is Risen!

You've worked hard during Lent to get your heart ready and now it is time to celebrate joyfully with Jesus! Our time wandering and fasting in the desert is over and now we enter a space that is alive, full of colour and beauty!

This means that it is time to transform our prayer space from a Lenten Desert to an Easter Garden! This week, during the Easter Octave, take the time to:

-Remove the sand from the bottom of your Lenten Desert and replace it with some Easter grass to create your Garden. Imagine this is kind of like the Israelites finally entering the promised land after wandering in the desert for 40 long years.

How joyful would that feel?

If you have a family member coming to Children's Program on Sundays, they will be creating their own version of this with symbols of new life like flowers, butterflies, eggs, and bunnies.

If not, you might consider using recycled Easter Grass from your family Easter basket, homemade paper grass, a green cloth, or even real, living, potted plants.


-Remove the purple and pink candle coverings from your Lenten candles to reveal the pure white underneath. Imagine that this is kind of like Jesus removing the cloths wrapped around him and rising up out of the tomb.

If you're just starting now, find 5 white candles to add to your Easter Garden.

White is an Easter colour that reminds us of God's glory!

-Move your 5 candles from the shape of a cross into a circle. The cross reminded us of Christ's sacrifice during Lent, and now in Easter we make it into a circle to remind us that Christ's love has no end, just like a circle!

Consider adding your Baptismal Candles to the inside of the circle. On Easter Sunday, Jesus made it possible for us to have new life in Him! Our Baptism is our invitation and calling into this new life in a beautiful and special way.





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Week 2: April 7: Divine Mercy Sunday

Light your candles whenever you gather together in prayer.

Reread this week's Gospel or talk about the main parts of the story. When Thomas finds himself in doubt, Jesus doesn't leave him out! Instead, he reveals himself and his peace through touch. Imagine what that would feel like!

Pray: "Thank you Jesus for always inviting us to know you more, even when we might not be sure. Touch our lives and bring us your peace!"

Create: an Easter Lily using your handprint traced and cutout of white paper! Use this to remind you of what it would feel like to reach out and touch the Risen Jesus. Wrap your cut-out handprint around a pipe cleaner, straw, or popsicle stick to create a stem.

Tie red and blue ribbons to the stems of your Lily for Divine Mercy Sunday. Use these to remember Jesus' love and mercy for all of us!

