



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 7: May 12: Ascension Sunday

- Light your candles whenever you gather together in prayer.
- Reread this week's Gospel or talk about the main parts of the story. Today we hear about Jesus' Ascension into heaven. Even as Jesus is finishing his time on earth, He reveals himself as someone who is always with us! He leaves us the gift of the Holy Spirit who will help us continue to love and serve others.
- Celebrate: this week, when you light the candles in your Easter Garden, add your Baptismal Candle in the middle. Share the stories of your baptism days and talk about how the Holy Spirit was given to each of us in such a special way!



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Week 8: May 19: Pentecost Sunday

Welcome to the final Sunday of the Easter Season! Your Easter Garden should now look abundant and full of all sorts of symbols of the life that Jesus invited us to. We've been learning more and more about who Jesus has revealed himself to be and now, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit who helps us live out these callings and become closer and closer to the heart of God.

-Reread this week's Gospel or talk about the main parts of the Pentecost story. Even after Jesus goes back to heaven, we know that we are not alone! God reveals Godself as the Holy Spirit and brings God's power to the Church. Here we learn more and more every day about how to grow in holiness and live a Spirit led life.

-Create: As a final addition to our Easter Garden, print out these candle candle wraps (in the QR code below) with the apostles on them. Wrap them around the candles in your garden (you may have room for two or three apostles per candle). Secure them with clear tape.

-Celebrate: as you light your candles, watch the flame dance like the Holy Spirit coming to the apostles on Pentecost. Gather around your Garden and celebrate with some treats. Sing Happy Birthday to the Church and/or "Holy Spirit, You are welcome here". Invite the Holy Spirit to join you and guide your family in a special way today and always.

