



# Home Rituals — Ideas for your family

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St. Ignatius Loyola Parish

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## Introducing Rituals into your Home.

- Easter and Beyond
- Attention to detail — do you know all the characters of the Easter narrative?
- Favorite gospel narrative of the Resurrection

Online bible:

- [USCCB.ORG/Bible](http://USCCB.ORG/Bible)
- [BibleGateway.org](http://BibleGateway.org)

Loyola Press

- [Easter Activities:](#)
- [Imaginary Interviews](#)

## Inside this issue:

- Easter & Beyond **1**
- Resurrection Characters **2**

## Celebrating a Season — Easter and Beyond

*He is Risen, Alleluia, Alleluia.*  
*Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia.*

It is a little late to ask how you are going to celebrate Easter. By now you should have bought the outfits, boiled the eggs, planned the visits to family.

On the other hand, we celebrate Easter all the way up to Pentecost. That means 50 days that you probably haven't really thought about. What might you do to make Easter last?

It might sound dumb, but maybe not so. You know about Elf on the Shelf, why not a variation for you and your children called "The Appearance Narratives". Each Sunday will be a different appearance narrative. Go ahead and read them with your family. Then for the week, keep repeating the story, at meals, at bedtime, when you think it might be fun.

It doesn't have to end there. Put a little note—something that simply reads "He is Risen, Alleluia, Alleluia." Put it where they will find it—medicine cabinet, dresser drawer, school book. Then they would need to return it with the call's response, "Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia." It's just one of many different creative ways to make Easter a part of each day.

Research some of the traditions about Easter and all the various symbols folks have used to celebrate. Google out there and find out the "why" of Easter Eggs. Look up Easter lilies and ask you children to be on the lookout for these flowers not only in church but also in religious art and in stained glass windows. Make the connection between Easter and Spring something explicit. Ask them why there are so

many different pictures of the resurrection with flowers. Explain how flowers "die" in the winter and "come back" in the spring. Connect Easter to the whole cycle of life.

If you did a calendar for the 4 weeks of Advent, or spoke about the 40 days of Lent, let your family know that Easter is not the end of the year, but leads to Pentecost, the 50 days of waiting for the Spirit to come. Go back to the liturgical calendar and show the Easter



season, when it will end, how it compares with the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent and Ordinary Time. See how Easter is even more important than Christmas, and see if you can explain why that might be. And while we are talking about the Easter season, see if you can come up with ways to celebrate and instruct about the feasts of the Ascension and of Pentecost. Then again, Pentecost is going to give you a whole lot to talk about with colors, symbols, who and what the Holy Spirit is, how the Spirit works into the various sacraments. A whole lot there.

See, Easter isn't quite over, it really does extend for a while. Let it be a season that is a season for growth in wisdom and grace.

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### Finding God in All Things

I remember a theology professor once asking the question, “Was the tomb empty?” The response that he gave was, “No, it is full of revelation.” What signs and symbols are a part of the empty tomb? Read carefully John 20 and check the footnotes.

You may want to spend some time comparing the different gospels to choose a favorite version of the resurrection. Compare your choice to that of one another. Give your reasons and begin a discussion of why one or the other. You may be surprised to find that you too can be a bible scholar and a theologian. It will help you to believe more deeply and to give your own testimony to this pivotal event in salvation history.

### Resurrection Characters:

While we often focus on Jesus the Resurrection story includes many disparate characters that might be worth consideration. As you spend time with the scripture passages, look for these “side-kicks” and how you might want to celebrate their contributions.

You may wish to quiz one another to ask “Who was the first to see Jesus?” And the answer according to Mark (16:9) “Now after He had risen early on the first day of the week, He first appeared to Mary Magdalene.” “Was Mary believed when she told the story of Jesus’ resurrection?” Again, according to Mark, “Who brought spices to the tomb to anoint Jesus’ body?” or “Who did these speak to at the tomb?” “What was the message?” Mark even includes a story of two who met Jesus on the road, in which gospel is there also a story of two who met Jesus walking on the road? [Note: some translations don’t include Mark 16:9ff. In the USCCB online version, it is listed as part of “The Longer Ending”. The footnotes explain the different endings of

this gospel.]

Of course each gospel has slightly different versions of the story. In Matthew, Jesus encounters both Mary Magdalene and “the other Mary”, presumably the mother of James and Salome, mentioned in Mark. Luke has the greatest number of appearance stories of the three Synoptic gospels. It is here that the story of the two on the road is described as the Road to Emmaus.

The gospel of John has its own collection of appearance narratives, although it begins with the appearance to Mary Magdalene as the first. John has an early conclusion in chapter 20 with another ending tacked on in chapter 21. Again, it is informational to see why chapter 21 is included and what additional appearance narratives are included.

Back to the characters. We all know that Jesus appears to Peter, but what other well-known

characters would you think to include? Maybe “doubting Thomas” from John 20, Or the disciple that Jesus loved from John 21.

And what special events are associated with Jesus’ appearances. Each gospel has a commissioning of disciples to baptize and to proclaim the gospel. Which gospel has the conferral of the Holy Spirit and the ability to forgive sins?

Along with the resurrection narratives of the gospels, we will hear a lot from the Book of Acts where, although there are no resurrection narratives, we will hear testimony of the resurrection as well as the story of Pentecost.

A lot happens. How will you tell the story? What characters will you include? What events? How long will you celebrate Easter?