

Leader: May almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and bestowed on us forgiveness of our sins, keep us, by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord, for eternal life.

All answer Amen.

The members of the household are then blessed with holy water. This may be done using an instrument to sprinkle water on them, such as a small brush, or they may dip their hand in the water and make the sign of the cross.

The members of the household then pray for the Church and for the world, with a reader leading the intercessions:

Reader: For those who today are renewing their baptism, that they may be enlightened by Christ, the Light of the world, and be renewed in the new life of the children of God. We pray to the Lord.

All answer: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For those suffering under the pandemic, that the hope which comes from the resurrection of Jesus may bring them consolation, strength and peace. We pray to the Lord.

All answer: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That the light of Easter may shine on our political leaders, that their deliberations and decisions may always reflect the common good. We pray to the Lord.

All answer: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For priests, deacons, and lay people, that the mystery of the death and resurrection of Christ may give them new energy in their task of evangelization and leadership of the people of God. We pray to the Lord.

All answer: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For our families and our Christian communities, that this time of Easter may be an occasion for all to strengthen the bonds that unite them in Christ. We pray to the Lord.

All answer: Lord, hear our prayer

The intercessions conclude with the Our Father:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

The leader then invokes God's blessing on everyone present:

Leader: May Almighty God bless us through today's Easter Solemnity, and, in his compassion, defend us from every assault of sin.

All answer: Amen.

Leader: And may he, who restores us to eternal life in the Resurrection of his Only Begotten, endow us with the prize of immortality.

All answer: Amen.

Leader: Now that the days of the Lord's Passion have drawn to a close, may we who celebrate the gladness of the Paschal Feast come with Christ's help, and exulting in spirit, to those feasts that are celebrated in eternal joy.

All answer: Amen.

Leader: And may the blessing of almighty God come down on us and remain with us forever: the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All answer: Amen.

Leader: Let us share with one another a sign of peace.

The members of the household may then share the joy of Easter with a sign of peace, such as a hug, handshake, kiss, etc.

HAPPY EASTER!

NOTE: Any holy water remaining after the conclusion of the time of prayer is still blessed and so should be treated with respect. It may continue to be used for the blessing of the members of the household throughout the Easter season. Indeed, members of the faithful may approach their parishes to have the bottles refilled. If they wish to dispose of the holy water it should be poured into the ground. Holy water should never be flushed down a sink or toilet.



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Evaluation form*

1. How was your experience of this celebration?
2. What did you like the most?
3. What would need to be improved?
4. Would you be ready to relive a similar experience?
5. Other comments, suggestions

* Please complete this evaluation form and send it to j.vezina@ssmd.ca or by facsimile to 705-674-9889 **by April 21, 2021.**