

How to share your Easter joy!

Ideas for kids and parents

A family play—the rolled back stone

Before you eat your Easter dinner, why not act out a short and easy play about the followers of Jesus who found that his tomb was empty when they rolled back the stone! They were very surprised when an angel messenger announced, 'Jesus is not here. He has risen from the dead.' Then they see Jesus on the road! Look up the following stories from the Bible and decide which version you would like to act out— *Mark 16: 1-6; Matthew 28:1-11; Luke 24:1-8; or John 20:1-13.*

All you need is a few sheets for costumes, a pretend rock, a few lines to tell the story, and a few people to act it out. Have fun, and show how amazed and joyful you feel when you discover the miracle that Jesus is alive again!

Draw the cross on foreheads and say this...

Invite all the family and guests at your Easter dinner table to mark each other's foreheads with the sign of the cross and say "Christ is risen! Alleluia!" Say it with the joy we feel to know that Jesus has risen and has saved us all.

All say a prayer of joy

Invite each guest at the Easter dinner table to say a prayer of joy by thanking Jesus for the blessings they are most grateful for. At the end of all the prayers, ask your guests to say together three times: "Christ is risen! Alleluia!"

Pictures of Jesus on the table

Make place cards for your Easter dinner table and decorate them with small, happy pictures of Jesus that you find on the internet. This will remind everyone of why you have gathered together to celebrate Easter.

Decorate your house with pictures

Draw happy pictures of your friend Jesus to remind everyone of how beautiful He is and how much He loves us all.

Before you color your eggs

Before you color your Easter eggs, use a wax crayon to draw a picture of the cross or of Jesus. This drawing will be visible after the egg is colored.



HAVE YOUR EASTER FOOD BLESSED!

Put the main ingredients for your Easter dinner in an Easter basket and take it to church on Holy Saturday at 2:00 pm to have the food blessed by Father Steve.

Some families take the following foods, which are symbolic of Easter:

EGGS- represent the glory of the Resurrection.

BUTTER- represents that Jesus was an Innocent Victim.

BREAD- represents the basic food of life. It reminds us that God sent manna (bread) from heaven to feed the hungry Israelites when they wandered in the desert. It also reminds us of the parable of the five loaves and two fishes, which Jesus miraculously multiplied to feed thousands of people who had gathered to hear him speak.

SALT- represents the truth of God's word.

VINEGAR, HORSERADISH OR SOUR CREAM- remind us of the bitter gall that the soldiers gave to Jesus on the cross, when he cried out, "I thirst!"

MEAT (ham, veal, sausage or lamb), represents survival.

CHEESE- reminds us of the old custom of fasting from dairy products on some days in Lent.

Have fun making up other foods to put in your Easter Basket and tell what that food could remind us of. (Perhaps something sweet could remind us of how good God is to us and how sweet His love is.)

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