

Easter Vigil | the Holy Night of Easter | Year B

March 30, 2024

In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth, his creation was good. Let us remind ourselves that, on this very night of Easter Vigil, God continue his goodness to the world. Let us celebrate God and his goodness with our prayers.

1/ From the depth of the Israelites' fear and death, God reached out his hand to them and rescued them from the slaying swords of Pharaoh. We pray that all the peoples of God, led by Pope Francis, may always remember God's everlasting presence with them. Let us pray.

2/ At the end of the Israelites' exile in Babylon, God promised that he would always be with them. We pray that all the peoples in this world—whether Christians or non-Christians—may come to believe that God has never abandoned humanity. Let us pray.

3/ Paul tells the Romans that they who were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death. And because of their baptism, they were also raised with him into newness of life. For our Catechumens, particularly for Natasha Nichole Crowder. We pray that their baptism, confirmation, and sharing in our Eucharist this evening may sustain them in the newness of life with the risen Jesus. Let us pray.

4/ We often look for our departed relatives among the dead. But in today's Gospel, the angel told the women who were visiting the tomb that they ought to seek the risen Jesus, not from among the dead, but from among the living. For our sisters and brothers who have died with their faith in Jesus. We pray that God, who raised Jesus from the dead, may raise our loved ones to be among the living. On this Easter Vigil, we especially remember Martha Nell and Kenny Barger, Bradley Rhodes, Frances Bruner, the benefactors of Saint John the Apostle, and those whose names are remembered in the list of Easter Flower Donations. Let us pray.

God of resurrection and life. On this Easter Vigil, we commemorate the greatest Feast of our faith. That is the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. May our hearts always rejoice in your grace and mercy for us so long as we journey on earth. We pray all this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.