

# **THOUGH MANY, WE ARE ONE**

## **UNIT 6**

### **CHRIST IS RISEN**

#### **Lesson 5**

#### **The Easter Vigil**

## Unit 6 Lesson 5

### Christ Is Risen

#### The Easter Vigil

##### Lesson Overview

Students will be introduced to the Easter Vigil and the rites that take place during this celebration.

#### CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

##### Religious Education:

**Grade 4 - CL1.3:** Link the Sacraments of Initiation and Reconciliation to the seasons of the liturgical calendar (Advent, Lent, and Easter) and identify in the symbols of the sacraments and the seasons, signs of God's presence (e.g. "I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."). [CCC nos. 1420-1470]

**Grade 5 - CL3.3:** Examine the Baptismal liturgy of the Easter Vigil and explain why the liturgy begins with the Litany of the Saints to which the names of those to be baptized are added, and why it is appropriate form of prayer to the saints. (Through baptism we become members of the communion of Saints. When we pray to the saints, we're simply asking them to help us, by praying to God on our behalf, or thanking them for having already done so.) [CCC nos. 946-959; 1173]

**Grade 6 - CL3.2:** Describe various ways Christ's death and Resurrection are expressed in both the sacraments of Initiation and the liturgical rites and symbols of the Easter Triduum (e.g. through symbols - Darkness / Light, Fire, the Paschal Candle, empty tabernacle; through word and song - Exultat, Scripture Readings; through

#### ONTARIO CATHOLIC SCHOOL GRADUATE EXPECTATIONS & CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHINGS

##### The Catholic Social Teachings evident in this lesson include:

Call to Family, Community, and Participation

##### The Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations evident in this lesson include:

**CGE1b:** Participates in the sacramental life of the church and demonstrates an understanding of the centrality of the Eucharist to our Catholic story

**CGE5a:** Works effectively as an interdependent team member

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sacramentals - incense, water, oils, cross). [CCC nos. 1127-1130]	
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GUIDING QUESTIONS (coming out of the Big Idea)	
<b>Big Idea:</b>	The Liturgical seasons are marked by specific rituals, prayers, signs, images and colours which have developed throughout the Tradition of the Church and which have become part of our experience of faith in Christ as expressed in the yearly life of the Church.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are some rituals that take place at the Easter Vigil?</li> <li>• What do the signs and images remind us about our faith?</li> </ul>

LEARNING GOALS	
	At the end of this lesson, students will know, understand and/or be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the basic structure of the Easter Vigil</li> <li>• Identify signs and symbols in the sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil.</li> </ul> <p><b>Success Criteria</b>, based on the Learning Goals, can be co-constructed as a class in language meaningful to students. The success criteria help students understand what to look for during the learning and what it looks like once they have learned. They identify the significant aspects of student performance that are assessed and/or evaluated (i.e., the “look-fors”) in relation to curriculum expectations.</p>

INSTRUCTIONAL COMPONENTS AND CONTEXT	
<b>Terminology:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Triduum</li> <li>– Exultet</li> <li>– Sacrament of Initiation</li> <li>– Intercession</li> <li>– Sacramental</li> <li>– Faithful</li> </ul>	<b>Materials:</b> <p><b>Internet Resources:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>Easter Vigil Baptism:</i> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wtIFLHNof4">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wtIFLHNof4</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Resources:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The Easter Vigil: The Solemn Beginning of the Vigil (<i>Appendix 1</i>)</li> <li>– The Easter Vigil: The Liturgy of the Word (<i>Appendix 2</i>)</li> <li>– The Easter Vigil: Baptismal Liturgy (<i>Appendix 3</i>)</li> <li>– The Easter Vigil: The Liturgy of the Eucharist (<i>Appendix 4</i>)</li> <li>– Easter Vigil Worksheet: (<i>Appendix 5</i>)</li> <li>– An Illustrated Guide to the Triduum (<i>Appendix 6 – as separate attachment</i>)</li> </ul>

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### MINDS ON

- Establishing a positive learning environment
- Connecting to prior learning and/or experiences
- Setting the context for learning

Introduce the celebration of the Easter Vigil to students by reminding them of the video of the preparation of the Paschal Candle that was viewed last class.

Inform students that they will be learning about the structure of the Vigil, what happens throughout the celebration, and the signs associated with the Vigil.

Ask students when the Easter Vigil takes place (Easter Saturday – no earlier than sunset). Inform them that the Easter Vigil is referred to as the mother of all Church celebrations, is the most beautiful liturgy in the Church, and as such, that the average vigil is about 2-2.5 hours in length.

The Easter Vigil marks the beginning of Easter. The vigil is divided into four parts:

1. The Solemn Beginning of the Vigil (viewed in part during the last class)
2. The Liturgy of the Word
3. Baptismal Liturgy
4. The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Ask students to recall what they have learned about the Solemn Beginning of the Vigil (begins outside of the church, a big fire is lit and blessed, the Paschal Candle is prepared, lit from the fire, and processed into the church in darkness, people light their tapers from the Paschal Candle).

### ACTION

- Introducing new learning or extending/reinforcing prior learning
- Providing opportunities for practice and application of learning (guided → independent)

Divide students into 4 different groups, representing each part of the Vigil (if necessary, multiple groups may study the same part).

Inform each group that they will be looking at the basic structure of their part, what takes place, and the signs and symbols associated with it. Students will complete the section on the handout (*Appendix 5*) that corresponds to their part of the Vigil.

After each group has completed their sheet, they will share their findings with the other groups (in a jigsaw format). Each group will record the answers to the corresponding parts on their sheet.

Once the students have had an opportunity to complete the entire sheet, the answers may be discussed with the entire class.

## Though Many, We Are One - Religious Education for Combined Junior Grades

### CONSOLIDATION

- Providing opportunities for consolidation and reflection
- Helping students demonstrate what they have learned

Share the Illustrated Guide to the Triduum (*Appendix 6*) with the students.

Review what takes place at the Easter Vigil.

You may choose to provide each student with the guide, or to display it somewhere in the classroom.

### CONTINUED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Further extensions to this lesson might include:

- **Reflection Questions for the Easter Vigil:**
  - *How has God interceded in my life?*
  - *After hearing the Resurrection story, what events do I see in my own life that are, in need of new life, in need of resurrection?*
  - *How can I carry on the story of the resurrection to others?*

Sources: Roman Missal – The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night  
Busted Halo - Your Essential Guide to the Triduum, by Julianne Wallace  
Catholicculture.org: Easter Vigil

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **The Easter Vigil: The Solemn Beginning of the Vigil**

**Walking into the church for the Easter Vigil will look a lot different than any other time. You will notice a few differences:**

- The holy water fonts are drained.
- All the lights are out.
- The tabernacle is empty.

**What else will you notice?**

- You might ask yourself: *“Where is everybody?!”* That’s because the Vigil begins outside the church.

**So what happens?**

- A new fire is lit and blessed outside.
- The Paschal Candle is prepared while the priest marks the candle.
- Then the priest may insert five grains of incense into the candle in the form of a cross.
- The priest lights the candle from the new fire, saying:

***“May the light of Christ rising in glory dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.”***

**Then we head inside:**

- The candle is then processed through the church.
- The deacon (or priest if there is no deacon), lifts the candle at three different times, singing: The Light of Christ (or Lumen Christi). The congregation sings in reply: Thanks be to God (or Deo gratias).
- Everyone lights their candle from the Easter candle and continue in procession until the whole church is lit up by the tapers. The Paschal candle symbolizes Christ, the Light of the World.

**The glorious Easter song of the Catholic Church:**

- The Exsultet (Easter proclamation) is sung by the deacon (or a priest, or a cantor from the music ministry).
- The song announces the dignity and meaning of the mystery of Easter; it tells of man's sin, of God's mercy, and of the great love of Christ.
- We, in turn, thank the Trinity for all the graces that have been given to us.
- The Exsultet is sung in a church lit only with the light of the Paschal Candle and other smaller candles, which people are holding.

Sources: Roman Missal – The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night  
Busted Halo - Your Essential Guide to the Triduum, by Julianne Wallace  
Catholicculture.org: Easter Vigil

## **APPENDIX 2**

### **The Easter Vigil: The Liturgy of the Word**

**During the Easter Vigil, 9 readings are provided:**

- 7 Old Testament
- 2 New Testament.
- Not all are required to be read (due to time constraints).
- at least 3 Old Testament readings must be read, including Exodus 14.

**The readings tell us the story of our salvation, from Adam and Eve right to the Resurrection! So, what are the readings?**

- The story of creation (Genesis 1 and 2).
- Abraham and Isaac (Genesis 22).
- The crossing of the Red Sea (Exodus 14 and 15).
- The prophet Isaiah proclaiming God's love (Isaiah 54).
- Isaiah's exhortation to seek God (Isaiah 55).
- The glory of God (Baruch 3 and 4).
- A prophecy of Ezekiel (Ezekiel 36).
- Saint Paul on being baptized into Jesus Christ (Rom 6).
- The empty tomb discovered on Easter morning (Luke 24:1-21).

**But wait, there's more!**

- After each of the Old Testament readings (the first 7), a psalm is sung by everyone, followed by a prayer led by the priest.
- After the Old Testament readings have been read, the altar candles are lit.
- The Gloria is sung before the New Testament reading of the Romans, and bells ring throughout the whole song.
- The Alleluia is sung before the Gospel of Luke is proclaimed.
- The Homily follows the Gospel.

Sources: Roman Missal – The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night  
Busted Halo – Your Essential Guide to the Triduum, by Julianne Wallace  
Catholicculture.org: Easter Vigil

## **APPENDIX 3**

### **The Easter Vigil: Baptismal Liturgy**

The Baptismal Liturgy involves a bit more than just the sacrament of Baptism. Here is what takes place:

#### **The blessing of water:**

- The Priest goes to the Baptismal Font with the catechumens (those who will be baptised) and their sponsors.
- The Litany of the Saints is sung.
- The water in the Baptismal Font is blessed.
- The priest lowers the Paschal Candle into the font 3 times while praying the blessing.

#### **Baptism:**

- The priest then questions the catechumens with the profession of faith, which includes the rejection of sin and the Apostles' Creed.
- The priest then baptizes each catechumen individually, by either immersing their whole body or by pouring water on their head 3 times.
- The faithful (all present) typically respond with an "amen", sometimes sung, after each baptism.
- Each newly baptized is anointed with the oil of chrism.
- Each new member of the church is clothed in a white garment and presented with a baptismal candle, which is lit from the Paschal Candle.

#### **The renewal of baptismal promises:**

- The faithful renew their baptismal promises at this time, if they did not do so with the catechumens.
- The priest then sprinkles (blesses) the faithful with holy water.

#### **The celebration of reception:**

- Those who were baptized are then invited to the sanctuary (the area at the front of the church where the altar is located) to be received into the faith.

#### **Confirmation:**

- All those who will be confirmed are invited to the front of the church.
- The laying of the hands takes place, where the priest outstretches his hand and prays over the confirmation candidates, asking the Holy Spirit to bless them with its gifts.
- The candidates are anointed with chrism as they are confirmed.
- All of the candidates and sponsors return to their places.

#### **The prayer of the faithful:**

- The Baptismal Liturgy concludes with the prayer of the faithful.



Sources: Roman Missal – The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night  
Busted Halo - Your Essential Guide to the Triduum, by Julianne Wallace  
Catholicculture.org: Easter Vigil

## **APPENDIX 4**

### **The Easter Vigil: The Liturgy of the Eucharist**

At this point in the Vigil, the Mass resumes, with the special prayers inserted during the Eucharistic Prayer. The whole church is called to join at the sacrificial table that Christ prepared for us through his death and resurrection.

#### **The Offertory:**

- The gifts of bread and wine are typically brought forward by the newly baptized.

#### **Prayer of the Offerings:**

- We ask God to accept our prayers and offerings.
- We ask for healing.

#### **The Preface:**

- The newly baptized are prayed for in a special way during this prayer.
- We ask God to remember them as the newest members of our family.

#### **The sung responses:**

- The Holy Holy
- The Memorial Acclamation
- The Great Amen
- The Lamb of God

#### **Communion:**

- The Priest may briefly address the newly baptized about receiving their first Communion.
- The newly baptized receive both the body & the blood of Christ.

#### **Prayer after Communion:**

- The priest asks God to fill us with the Spirit of love and to make us one in mind and heart.

#### **The Solemn Blessing:**

- A special Easter blessing in which the faithful (all present) respond **“amen”** three times, before the fourth and final **“amen”** after making the sign of the cross.

#### **The Sung Dismissal:**

- During the Octave (first 8 days) of Easter, the deacon (or priest) will sing:  
*“Go forth, the Mass is ended, alleluia, alleluia” or “Go in peace, alleluia, alleluia”.*
- All respond in song: *“Thanks be to God alleluia, alleluia”.*

**APPENDIX 5 – page 1**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**The Easter Vigil**

**Part 1:** \_\_\_\_\_

**The rituals that take place:**

**Signs and Symbols:**

**What they represent:**

**Part 2:** \_\_\_\_\_

**The rituals that take place:**

**Signs and Symbols:**

**What they represent:**

**The Easter Vigil**

**Part 3:** \_\_\_\_\_

**The rituals that take place:**

**Signs and Symbols:**

**What they represent:**

**Part 4:** \_\_\_\_\_

**The rituals that take place:**

**Signs and Symbols:**

**What they represent:**