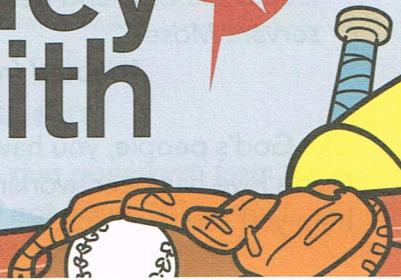


Journey of Faith



Easter Vigil Retreat

"You've all come a long way," Mrs. Evans said with a satisfied smile. "I'm very proud of you! You've learned so much about the Catholic faith. The whole parish will celebrate your new life in Jesus at the Easter Vigil!"

"Today, we're going to reflect on that journey. All the things you've learned and everything we still have to learn together."





What have you liked the most about being in the RCIA?

List one or two things you've learned that were really important to you.

Opening Prayer

Lord, open our minds and hearts to your presence today. Guide us as we journey through this process and bring us closer to you. Help us know you better. Help us see your goodness in everyone we meet.

First Reading: Genesis 1:1—2:2

"God looked at everything he had made, and he thought it was very good."

Adapted from Genesis 1:31

Think about how close God is to you at all times. If you can, go outside and look for God in nature. See the flowers, grass, and leaves. Breathe in the fresh spring air. Give thanks to God!

Name two places where you feel close to God.

Second Reading: Genesis 22:1–18

"God put Abraham to the test. He called to him, 'Abraham!' 'Here I am!' Abraham replied."

Adapted from Genesis 22:1

"Do you trust me? Are you ready?" God asked Abraham. As you prepare to enter the Church, God asks you the same thing.



Are you ready to serve God?

Third Reading: Exodus 14:15—15:1

"When Israel saw...the great power that the LORD had shown against the Egyptians, they feared the LORD and believed in him and in his servant Moses."

Adapted from Exodus 14:30–31

Like God's people, you have been on a journey. God's love has been working in you. Ask God to help you see this miracle.



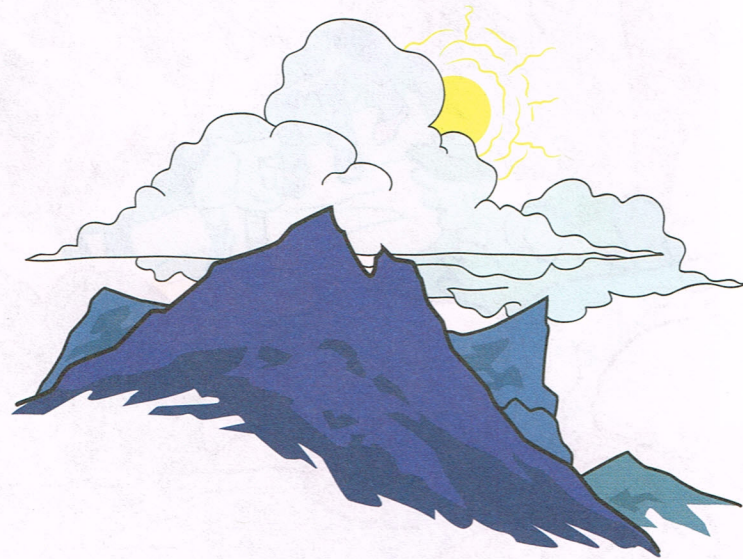
How have you changed from when you first started learning about the Church?

Fourth Reading: Isaiah 54:5–14

"Though the mountains leave their place and the hills be shaken, my love shall never leave you nor my covenant of peace be shaken, says the LORD, who has mercy on you."

Adapted from Isaiah 54:10

No matter what happens in your life, God's love and promises to you will never change.





How does it make you feel to know that God loves you deeply and forever?

Fifth Reading: Isaiah 55:1–11

“So shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; my word shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it.”

Adapted from Isaiah 55:11

Void means “empty” or “worthless.” God’s word is never worthless! God’s word changes hearts and creates new life.

Write two of your favorite Bible quotes below. Why are these your favorite?

Sixth Reading: Baruch 3:9–15, 32—4:4

“Blessed are we, O Israel; for what pleases God is known to us!”

Adapted from Baruch 4:4

God speaks in our hearts to help us do what is right.

List two things you can do to make God happy.

Seventh Reading: Ezekiel 36:16–28

“I will give you a new heart and place a new spirit within you, taking from your bodies your stony hearts and giving you natural hearts.”

Adapted from Ezekiel 36:26

When we say someone has a “heart of stone,” it means the person is mean and doesn’t listen to God or care about others. God’s heart is never hard. God wants our hearts to be like his.



On one line below, write something about yourself that you want to change. On the other line, write something good that God placed in your heart.

Epistle: Romans 6:3–11

“We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life.”

Romans 6:4



Because Jesus was raised to new life, we know that we will be raised to new life one day, too. Jesus promises this to us.



How will your new faith change how you live and act?

Gospel: Year A, Matthew 28:1–10; Year B, Mark 16:1–7; Year C, Luke 24:1–12

“You seek Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified. He has been raised; he is not here.”

Mark 16:6

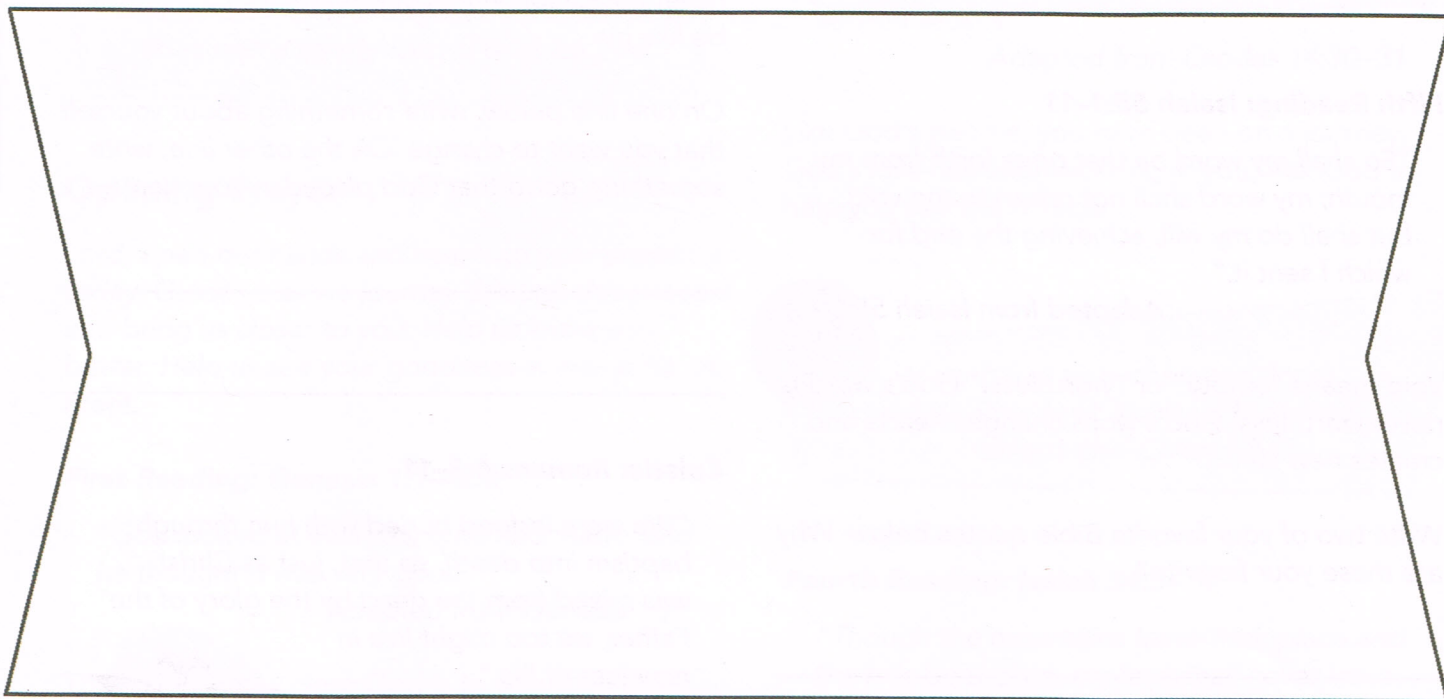
Jesus really was raised from the dead! He offers all of us eternal life with him. How great is that?!

On a separate piece of paper, write a short prayer to Jesus, thanking him for your new life.



CELEBRATE YOUR NEW LIFE!

To celebrate your new life in Jesus, create a banner using symbols and colors that represent your journey of faith.



You can include water, oil, a candle or flame, dove, the Bible, cross, lamb, chalice, host, praying hands, church building, angels, music notes, or anything else you think of!

In Short



- Through the RCIA, you grow in love of God and his Church.
- The Scripture readings from the Easter Vigil help us reflect on our faith.
- Becoming Catholic is just the beginning of your life in the Church.

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