

PREPARATION CHECKLIST 2021: THE EASTER VIGIL

HOLY SATURDAY

- The Lectionary is prepared in the usual way on the ambo. The appropriate readings and page turns are marked for ease of the lectors' use with so many readings and options. A note is after the epistle that the Lectionary should be shelved as usual. The *Exsultet* book is pre-set on the appropriate deacon's chair or ambo.
- The Book of the Gospels is marked and pre-set on the altar – it is not carried in the procession.
- A binder containing all needed texts from both the *Roman Missal* and the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*, along with other needed texts (introductory comments, Universal Prayer, musical notation, etc.) is prepared to be used at the fire and carried by the book bearer throughout the night.
- The tabernacle is empty with the door conspicuously open. A vigil candle is present, but unlit.
- Candles are at the altar, but unlit. They are lit during the *Gloria*.
- The paschal candle standard is empty and placed near the ambo (even if it will be elsewhere in the sanctuary for the remainder of the 50 days.)
- At the baptistery:
 - The font is prepared for the baptisms (water, towels, etc.)
 - The ambry is open so the Sacred Chrism can be brought for Confirmation.
 - An initiation candle and white garment for each neophyte is prepared.
 - An aspergillum or other implement for sprinkling the people.
- Appropriate pews are reserved for the elect, candidates, their godparents, sponsors, and families.

- The paschal candle is prepared for the procession. The bottom has been cut and will fit appropriately in the standard.
- The follower for the paschal candle is prepared where the candle is.
- Candles for the ministers, as well as a taper for lighting the paschal candle, are prepared. Make sure the taper used in the fire to light the paschal candle will withstand intense heat and light effectively. Bundling several long fireplace matches works well.
- The incense grains for marking the candle are also prepared.
- A fire is lit approximately 10 minutes before the liturgy is to begin. Wood is added as needed to keep it blazing until the liturgy begins. The fire needs to last at least until the procession goes into the church (approx. 10 minutes after the liturgy begins.)
- The thurible, coals, boat, tongs, etc. are prepared in the usual way. The thurifer brings the thurible and boat to the fire. A coal is in it unlit, even though one will be added from the fire.
- The usual vessels are prepared for Mass.
- The processional cross is already in the church, for procession ONLY at the end.

- As needed, small lights are prepared at the chair, ambo, cantor stand, piano, and anywhere else needed for the *Exsultet* and other parts of the liturgy done without full light in the church.