



## Easter Vigil

A vigil is a time of waiting. Parents keep vigil when a new baby is about to be born. We keep vigil when a loved one is dying. The Easter vigil is also a time of waiting. We wait as we hear again our story of salvation. We wait as new members come into our community through baptism and confirmation. We wait to come to the table of Eucharistic communion – to share together the risen Body and Blood of Christ.

The elements of the Easter vigil are fire, the light of the Paschal candle that shows us the way, the waters of baptism that unite all of us in Christ and the oil of chrism, the fragrance that radiates from the newly initiated amid the assembly who welcome them. We have spent the day quietly in prayer and fasting so that we can feast on the joy and hope of this night. This is the culmination of our Triduum when we follow the Easter light into the darkness, where we sing the Exultet and glory in our resurrection in Christ along with the saints and all who have gone before us. On this night, we know what it is to be God's chosen ones, a holy people, a royal priesthood, called to radiate the risen Christ to the world.