

# Partners in FAITH



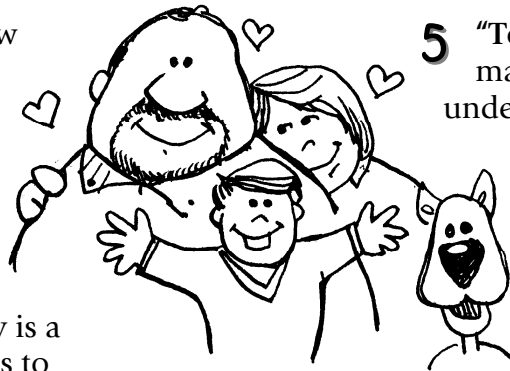
Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

Special Easter Issue

## 8 Ways to celebrate Easter the whole year through!

On Easter morning, we know that the sorrow of Good Friday is finally ended, the pain of the Cross is over, and Jesus is glorified once and for all. But unlike other holidays, Easter doesn't end when the day is done. In fact, each Sunday is a "little Easter." Try these ideas to celebrate our new life at Easter all year long:

**1 Celebrate our new life.** Plant an indoor Easter garden that you can tend all year. Point out new leaves, blossoms, or shoots when they appear, and remember that Easter brings us all new life.



**5 "Tell me a story."** Jesus told marvelous stories to help us understand God's love and care for us. Add Jesus' stories to your regular bedtime story selection and help your children fall asleep with sweet dreams of Jesus' love.

**6 Rejoice in reconciliation.** Jesus knew that while our

intentions may be good, our resolve isn't always perfect. That's why he created the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Take your family to Confession regularly. Your children will see that you keep coming back for God's forgiveness and learn that it's there for them, too.

**2 Light an Easter candle.** Make an Easter candle with symbols of Jesus that can include a lamb, a cross, or an alpha (A) and an omega (like an upside-down U). Light the Easter candle every Sunday to recall the wonder of the Resurrection.

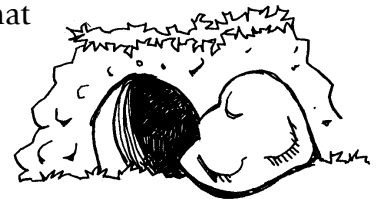


**7 Fast before the feast.** The pain of Good Friday makes the joy at Easter more intense. Make every Friday a day of penance. For example, if a particular food is a special treat for your family, give it up on Friday. Or consider making Friday night a no-TV, no-computer game night. Then, on Sunday, treat yourselves to whatever you gave up.

**3 Come together in silence.** Blessed Teresa of Calcutta said, "We need to find God, and he cannot be found in noise and restlessness. God is the friend of silence." Once a week, turn off the television, computers, video games and telephones. Sit in the silence together and listen for God's voice.



**8 Rejoice in the Resurrection.** Before you attend Sunday Mass, read the gospel selection out loud so that everyone is familiar with it. Talk about what the priest will do, the songs you like to sing, or ask which prayers your children like best.



**4 Spread the table with joy.** Gather as a family every Sunday for an Easter meal and spread a white tablecloth on the table. White is the color of the Easter season and reminds us of victory and joy.

This helps all of you to experience Mass, not just witness it. Easter returns every Sunday. Don't miss it.