

# Our Easter Celebration Continues

Despite the stores putting away the Easter candy and decorations and getting out their summer items to sell, Easter for us Christians continues for 50 days, through the feast of Pentecost! Keep the Easter celebration going in your family with these activities.

## 10 Steps to Easter Joy

Use these ten activities to let the risen Christ live in your hearts- not only during the Easter season, but all year round.

1. **Reflect on Acts 2:42-47.** Discuss ways that your family can share some of your possessions with others who have need of them.
2. **Make an Alleluia banner.** Alleluia is a Hebrew word that means joyful praise. We sing Alleluia throughout the Easter season and beyond to express our joy in all of God's blessings.
3. **Encourage good deeds.** Place a small dish of candy on your dinner table. Each time you gather for a meal, each family member gets the chance to mention one sign of new life that he or she has noticed or one good deed he or she has done that day. When they finish sharing, family members may choose a piece of candy from the dish and put it in a special decorated box. At Pentecost, your family may decide how to divide the candy or give it away.
4. **Make a resurrection cross.** Cut out a cross from tagboard. Crack and smash colored Easter egg shells in a plastic bag. Glue the pieces onto the cut out cross. Punch a hole at the top of the cross and hang it up with yarn.
5. **Emphasize family meals.** Prominent in the gospels of the Easter season are times when Jesus and the disciples shared food. Have a special meal together at least once a week, using all the trimmings: tablecloth, candles, flowers or other decorations, a special dessert, etc.
6. **Bless one another.** Water is a primary symbol for the Church during Easter as we continue to recall and celebrate our baptism. Keep some holy water on your kitchen table or another prominent place in your home. Bless yourselves and one another when you leave the house, before bedtime, and other times when you need a blessing.
7. **Sing Easter songs.** We sing Christmas carols throughout Advent and Christmas. What about Easter songs? The Church has some beautiful Easter hymns. Sing these with your family to celebrate Easter joy.
8. **Sit outside together.** Look at all of God's creation. Invite each family member to name something in God's creation that they are grateful for. Everyone can respond with We praise you, God of wonder, God of life.
9. **Keep on praying.** Have family members keep the needs of the family and friends in prayer by sharing prayer intentions each day.
10. **Take an Emmaus walk.** Read Luke 24:13-35, then invite family members to walk outside together. As you walk, imagine Jesus walking with you. Talk to Jesus as the disciples going to Emmaus did.

