



DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

# ROOTED IN CHRIST

LENT 2022



## The Greatest Liturgy

The Easter Vigil is the greatest liturgy of the entire year in the Roman Rite of the Catholic Church. The Roman Missal guides the celebration of this great night and even refers to the Easter Vigil as the “mother of all vigils” which is quoting St. Augustine from the 5th Century. So, the Easter Vigil has real history. [Read more](#)



## **From Darkness to Light**

We start in darkness and light a new fire. We bless the Easter candle that we use throughout the whole year for baptisms and funerals ... We do the chanting of the exultant, a praise of the Easter candle that's sung or chanted, and is essentially saying this beautiful night that this one light comes in and scatters the darkness. [Listen to more](#)

# WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE?

## LIGHT

The light of Christ that shines in the darkness.

## FIRE

It represents Christ's resurrection.

## GRAINS OF INCENSE

They represent the 5 wounds of Christ.



## ALPHA AND OMEGA

Christ is the beginning and end of all things.

## CROSS

It represents Christ and his eternal light.

## YEAR

It reminds us of God's presence here and now.

Source: [Aleteia.com](http://Aleteia.com)



## The Story of Salvation History

The Easter Vigil is the longest liturgy of the year. Part of the reason for the vigil's length is that the usual habit of three Sunday readings is replaced with up to seven (!) Old Testament readings, plus the responsorial psalms for each (!), the epistle and a Gospel reading. Together they tell the story of our shared history as the people of God, from the moment that "God created the heavens and the earth" to Abraham, to Moses, to Isaiah. We

hear of the power of grace and wisdom, the promise of the regeneration of God's people. We are urged to be "dead to sin" and listen as the women find Jesus' empty tomb. [Read more](#)

If you have never been to an Easter Vigil Mass, you don't know what you're missing! Maybe this is the year to attend one in a local parish.



Mary Hallman is the Diocesan Secretary for Parish Life. A native of Southern California, she has worked in both parish and diocesan ministry, and has learned from some of the best Catholic and Protestant leaders throughout the country. In her free time, Mary enjoys movies, a good cup of coffee, and the company of family and friends...and she is always looking to meet new people! [Send her a message](#) to say "hello."

Funding for this initiative provided by your support of the Diocese of Scranton's Diocesan Annual Appeal. Thank you for your generosity!

Diocese of Scranton  
2021 **DIOCESAN**  
ANNUAL APPEAL 