

Celebrating a Joyful Easter Season in the Home

By Mary Regina Morrell

For me, the celebration of Easter recalls many favorite childhood memories. Easter wasn't just about finding a basket filled with candy and a large chocolate cross. At the heart of celebrating Easter was the spirit of the day—the joy which even children can feel. I remember celebrating Easter by wearing festive Easter outfits, complete with white gloves and glorious hats that were sure to turn heads when we walked into church. The church was filled with Easter flowers. At home, we each had a role in preparing a traditional dinner of ham with the fixings and mamool, a Syrian dessert served during Easter.

It wasn't until I had children of my own that I learned Easter is more than a day. It is a season—50 days during which we celebrate new life in Christ. On the last day of the season, Pentecost Sunday, we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Here are some simple suggestions to help your family celebrate the great Fifty Days of the Easter season.

- **A living faith is a giving faith.** Fill Easter egg hunt eggs with coins as well as candy. Encourage the children to use the coins to purchase food for the parish food pantry.
- **Make every Sunday meal of the Easter season special.** Use a white tablecloth (the liturgical color for Easter) and serve foods such as hardboiled eggs or hot cross buns that were made with your children's help. Dress the table with fresh flowers and offer special Easter prayers of thanks and praise.
- **Create several homemade Easter cards.** Send or deliver them to local nursing homes or senior centers throughout the entire Easter season.
- **Create a Pentecost triptych for your family prayer table or kitchen table.** Use a rectangle of poster board folded into three equal parts. Read Acts 2:2-4 for inspiration and include plenty of red in your drawings (the liturgical color for Pentecost).
- **Go to RCLBLectionary.com.** Use the Easter season suggestions for reflection on the Sunday Gospels and for activity ideas.

