

Let's say you've just come from church with the alleluias still ringing in your heart. Wonderful. Now let's get the family involved with a simple Catholic Easter Dinner Prayer. Let everyone know that dinner is ready and call them to the table and ask them to join in the blessing of your Easter dinner.

What you need:

A table - your kitchen or dining room table or even a kitchen counter will do. Wherever you've arranged to have Easter dinner.

A white tablecloth -- a reminder of the white robe of baptism. Paper is O.K. but linen is best. Holy Water--.A simple bowl holds the holy water which you've brought from church.

Fresh flowers-- one Spring flower will do, a bouquet the children have picked is even better.

A Christ Candle - Buy an ordinary candle at any department store. It should be a large enough to be the center piece at your Catholic Easter Dinner table. It becomes your family's Easter candle when it graces your dinner table on Easter day.

A lighter of some sort so you don't have to run around looking for matches.

The table is set with a white tablecloth, a bowl of holy water, the family Easter candle and fresh flowers, plus whatever else speaks to your family of the joy of Easter. It's time to feast so make sure all the food is set out.

When the family has quieted down, the host or one of the guests should begin the Easter Dinner Family Prayers. No need to hand out copies of this service to everyone. Keep it simple. Only the host needs the printed form of this little family service.

Catholic Easter Dinner Blessing for Families:

Leader: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

(Everyone dips the tips of the fingers of their right hands into the small bowl of holy water and signs themselves with the sign of the cross as the leader prompts them.)

Leader: Loving Father, we began Lent on Ash Wednesday when we were signed with the sign of the cross and bore the ashes of repentance on our foreheads. Now we bless ourselves with the holy water that recalls our baptisms. We promise to avoid sin and live out our Faith in Our Lord Jesus Christ.

{ An optional childrens' role follows:

Child #1 Why is this Sunday such a special day?

Leader: Because on this day, Jesus, Our Lord, rose from the dead for our salvation.

Child #2: May I light the Easter candle?

Leader: Yes, to remind us that Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

The child lights the candle.}

Leader: We are lighting this Christ Candle to remind us that You, Lord, are the light of the World. May the light which this candle brings to our home scatter the darkness of evil from our lives.

(Light the Easter candle now, if the children's option was not used.)

Leader: Please repeat after me: Jesus Christ is the Light of the World.

All: Jesus Christ is the Light of the World.

Leader: On this the day of our salvation, we thank you for redeeming us in Jesus Christ and we say:

All: Jesus Christ is the Light of the World.

Leader: The Holy Communion which we received today joins us to Your Son in a bond of love and family unity. And, so we say:

All: Jesus Christ is the Light of the World.

Leader: Bless our world, our country and our own family with peace. And so we say:

All: Jesus Christ is the Light of the World.

Leader: Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ, before we eat our Easter dinner, we gather together here in our home as a family. Your Son has shown us the way to eternal life through His death and resurrection. We join our prayers to the prayers of families everywhere on this joyful day. With our Easter candle burning brightly to remind us of your love for us we ask you to keep us in love with each other and bring us to the glory of the Resurrection. Bless us, O Lord, and this food which we are about to receive in the Name of Jesus, Our Lord. Amen.

Use this blessing, your Catholic Easter Dinner Prayer, whether your Easter meal is a formal dinner with ham, yams and pie, or a buffet of sandwiches, or just a steaming fresh pizza.

A candle can be made to look more formal by tying a bow near the base of the candle or placing it in a setting surrounded by spring flowers.

Freely adapt this little ceremony and make it your own.

The author has served as a clergyman in the Catholic Church for many years. He has also blessed baskets on Holy Saturday. For information on that custom, see Tiffany Allen's fine [article on preparing Easter baskets for a blessing.](#)