

CHRISTIANS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD CELEBRATE THE HOLIEST OF DAYS  
*Bishop John Noonan Celebrates Easter Vigil at St. James Cathedral*

- WHO:** More than 400,000 registered Catholics throughout Central Florida
- WHAT:** Celebration of Easter Vigil
- WHEN:** Saturday, April 23 at 8:00 p.m.
- WHERE:** St. James Cathedral in downtown Orlando  
**215 North Orange Avenue**  
*Celebrant: Bishop John Noonan*  
*Assisted by Deacon David Gray*  
*Concelebrants: Father John McCormick, Cathedral Rector; Father Scott Circe*

**OTHER INFORMATION:**

This Easter, in the Diocese of Orlando, we welcome approximately 515 newly baptized Catholics into the Church. The journey to become a Catholic ends at the Easter Vigil with reception of the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and first Holy Communion. At St. James Cathedral, **11 people are initiated into the Catholic faith at the Easter Vigil on April 23.**

The Easter Vigil begins with the Service of Light. A “blazing fire” is prepared and people gather around it and experience the flames dispelling the darkness and lighting up the night. Thus do the beauty of the fire, its warmth and its light, draw the liturgical assembly together. Having reached the fire, the celebrant and faithful sign themselves with the sign of the cross while the priest says: *In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.* After this new beginning, he greets the people. The Paschal Candle is brought forward, the symbol of the “light of Christ, rising in glory,” scattering the “darkness of our hearts and minds.” The bishop processes into a darkened church, which becomes lit by the Light of Christ, as the Paschal Candle is used as the source of light for the candles within the church.

Scripture recounts the outstanding deeds of the history of salvation. These deeds are related in seven readings from the Old Testament chosen from the law and the prophets and two readings from the New Testament, namely from the apostles and from the gospel.

The catechumens are baptized after the Gospel is read.