

FAMILY EASTER CELEBRATIONS



Everything you have done as a family during the forty days of Lent has led you to Easter, the Feast of the Resurrection. It is time for rejoicing! It is appropriate to bring out the best of everything for the feast of Easter Day: flowers, china, the works. If you can, have

food that doesn't take a lot of last minute preparation. Instead of fretting too much in the kitchen, like Martha in the Gospel story, you have time to rejoice with Jesus, like Mary.

Easter baskets, egg hunts and lawn rolls are a common activity of American children on Easter morning. Along with consuming chocolate eggs, bunnies, marshmallow peeps and jelly beans, one can find green Easter grass all over the carpet. Keeping the dog and the baby out of the chocolate collection is all part of the fun. Nearly every family has its own special customs and traditional foods for Easter. These events and traditions all contribute to the bonding of families during special holidays and holy days. These are the things children will remember fondly if parents focus on making them stress-free opportunities for family and guests to enjoy one another.

In addition to the requisite excess of candy eggs, be sure to include in the Easter baskets something a little more lasting, like the inexpensive little books of Bible stories for the younger children. Perhaps a medal, picture or a biography of a child's patron saint can also be

included. A tape of religious music may also be given. Children could make an Alleluia card or banner to be displayed prominently during the Easter season.

Most schools have a holiday on Easter Monday. If the weather permits, this is a good day to go to the park or zoo. Plan a family nature walk looking closely for signs of new life, spring, promise, rebirth, reawakening.

MAKE EASTER CUP CAKES

Baking together is a great family bonding experience. Make cupcakes, decorate them with green colored frosting sprinkled with green shredded coconut "grass."

To color the coconut just add a few drops of green food coloring to a tablespoon of warm water. Then stir the coconut into the green coloring until it is nicely dyed. Each little cake will become a colorful Easter egg nest by adding a few jelly beans or one or two chocolate "bird eggs" on the top.

You can get dozens of holiday ideas from household magazines and the food section of newspapers. The main difference in the celebration of Easter and its festivities in a Christian household is that you know what you are celebrating, and why!

*May you and your
family rejoice in a
new life in Christ.*