

## **Activities**

### ***Easter and New Life***

When talking with the children about Easter make connections between the New Life we have in Jesus and his resurrection and springtime and the new life we see in nature. Discuss the symbols of flowers, eggs and baby animals. Look at the trees and grass and talk about how they begin to turn green and grow in the spring! Be sure to continue Easter celebrations in the days and weeks that follow Easter Sunday.

### ***Family Traditions***

Share family traditions for celebrating Easter.

### ***Basket Blessings***

Many years ago Christians had the tradition of having their Easter baskets blessed on Easter Sunday. Families would bring a basket containing the food for their holiday dinner to church for the priest to bless. The baskets were brought to the altar before Mass and then taken home at the end. Make up mini-Easter baskets for the children. Cut the top off of individual sized milk cartons and cover the bottom in festive wrapping paper. Add a pipe cleaner handle and some Easter grass. Fill the baskets with a few sweet treats, a prayer card and small toy. During Easter week, the week following Easter, invite your pastor to visit to bless the baskets before the children take them home.

Gather in your prayer space or go to the altar of your church. Use the following ideas.

Have the children place their baskets near or on the altar. Gather the children around the baskets.

### ***Prayer***

In the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. We pray, Alleluia! Alleluia! Today we gather together to continue our Easter Celebration with the blessing of these baskets. Legends of the past tell us that the use of baskets came from the symbol of the bird nest. A bird nest holds the eggs out of which new life, new baby birds come. What a good symbol this is of Jesus coming out of the dark tomb of death to new life.

### ***Blessing***

Dear Lord, we ask your blessing for these wonderful, faith-filled children gathered together during this Easter season. Keep them always in your loving care. Bless these baskets filled with goodies, reminders of the life-giving gift we received through the resurrection of your Son, Jesus. Amen.

