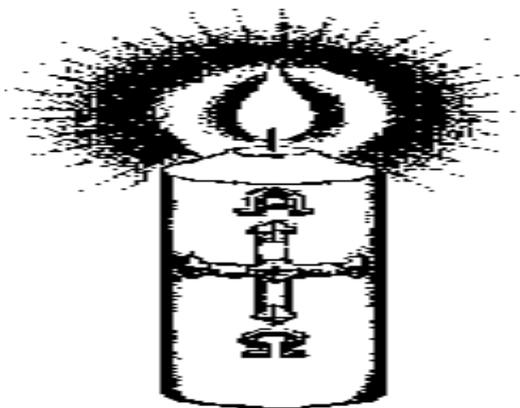


## PASCHAL CANDLE



Of all the liturgical symbols that are utilized during the Easter Triduum, one of the richest is the Paschal Candle. The Easter Vigil begins in darkness and a “new fire” is lit which symbolizes our eternal life in Christ. It is from this “new fire” that the Paschal Candle is lit. After it is lit, its light is used to spread throughout the congregation.

- The Paschal Candle is made out of pure beeswax, which represents the sinless Christ.
- The wick of the Candle is a symbol of His humanity and the flame is a symbol of His Divine Nature.
- Five grains of incense are inserted into the Candle during the lighting and these are symbolic of the spices that were used to prepare His Body for burial and also of His five wounds: hands, feet, and side.
- The Paschal Candle is the representation of Christ, “the light of the world.” (JN 8:12)
- The lighting of all other candles from the Paschal Candle, is symbolic of the light of the world spreading and those that follow the light will not walk in darkness.
- The first and last letters of the Greek Alphabet: Alpha and Omega (the beginning and the end) and the current year are inscribed onto the Candle around the form of a Cross to symbolize that Christ’s light through His salvific work, reaches to all men in all times.

**Christ yesterday and today, the beginning and the end, Alpha and Omega, all time belongs to Him and all the ages to him be glory and power through every age for ever. Amen.**

**By His holy and glorious wounds may Christ our Lord guard us and keep us. Amen.**

**May the Light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.**

***Prayer at the Lighting of the Candle***