

Wax

Eastertime is the 50-day-long season from Easter Sunday until Pentecost. Throughout this time the Paschal Candle shines in the church. This candle is an image of the risen body of Christ. It was kindled and consecrated with great ceremony on Easter Eve.

When people are Baptized into the Church, they are given candles lit from the Paschal Candle. They are told to keep their lamps burning brightly throughout their lives. At funerals, the Paschal Candle shines on the dead, like a pillar of fire to guide them to the promised land.

A burning candle is a sign of self-sacrifice. It consumes itself in a blaze of glory. Traditionally, the church's candles are made from beeswax. A beehive is a symbol of the Church where everyone is called to work together for the common good.

Many households light a fine, fat candle every mealtime, and, indeed, every time they gather to pray. It is a holy habit.

When you light a candle in prayer you might say: "Jesus Christ is the Light of the World—a Light no darkness can extinguish." Or say the words proclaimed at the Easter Vigil: "Light of Christ! Thanks be to God!"

