



HOLY SATURDAY

Ritual at Home: Make Your Own Paschal Candle

At the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday night, we celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord, which is symbolized by the new fire from which we light the Easter Candle. Every time we light this candle in church during the year it reminds us of the promise of eternal life. We invite you to make your own Paschal Candle that you can then light during the liturgy when we light the Easter Candle. This way throughout the year you will have at home a candle created for this the holiest of nights and lit from the Easter fire, that you can light to be reminded of God's victory and the promise of Resurrection.

Preparation:

- Begin by finding a candle, preferably a white pillar candle, or glass jar candle, but if those aren't available, you can make whatever candle you have on hand work.
- Talk about the significance of the Easter Candle with your family.
- Using acrylic paint (or alternately cutting out and taping on the symbols):
 - » Paint a large Cross on the middle of your candle, leaving some space above and below.
 - » Paint the letter "A" which stands for the word Alpha, above the cross
 - » Paint the symbol for the word Omega, "Ω" below the cross.
 - » Paint the number "2" in the upper left quadrant of the cross, the "0" in the upper right quadrant, the "2" in the bottom left, and the "0" in the bottom right quadrant.
 - » Father Daniel will insert five grains of incense into the candle at church. These signify the five wounds of Christ. If using a candle in a glass, you can paint on the five marks, or if using a pillar candle, you could insert a dried clove in each place, or use thumbtacks. The marks should go at the top of the Cross, at the middle of the Cross, at the bottom of the Cross, on the left side of the Cross, on the right side of the Cross.

Blessing:

As Father Daniel blesses the Easter Candle during the Easter Vigil, you can touch the corresponding parts of your own candle (if doing outside of the Liturgy, read each line and touch the corresponding part of the candle)

"Christ yesterday and today
(touch the vertical bar of the cross)

the Beginning and the End
(touch the horizontal bar of the cross)

the Alpha (touch the A, above the cross)

And the Omega (touch the Ω, below the cross)

All time belongs to him (touch the 2)

and all the ages (touch the 0)

To him be glory and power (touch the 2)

through every age and for ever. Amen." (touch the 0)

"By his holy (touch the mark at the top of the Cross)

and glorious wounds,
(touch the mark middle of the Cross)

may Christ the Lord
(touch the mark bottom of the Cross)

guard us
(touch the mark on the left side of the Cross)

and protect us. Amen"

The blessing is concluded with:

**May the light of Christ rising in glory
dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.
Amen**

