

## Family Faith Activity #2

# Make a Paschal Candle



The Paschal Candle or Easter Candle is a very important symbol of the “Light of Christ, rising in glory, “ scattering the “darkness of our hearts and minds.” Each year a new candle is presented at the Easter Vigil and is placed in a visible location. It is lit at all masses from Easter until Pentecost. This year that is from April 4th to May 23rd. After Pentecost the Paschal Candle is only used for Baptisms to give the new member of the church the Light of Christ and at funerals as a sign of passing over from death to life in Christ.

The Paschal Candle is not just an ordinary candle...it has some very special features that make it a unique and extraordinary part of our liturgical celebrations. The candle must be made of pure beeswax which symbolizes the pure flesh of Christ received from Mary, his Blessed Mother. The wick signifies the humanity of Christ and the flame represents His Divine Nature. When lit, the candle reminds us that the Light of Christ shines in the darkness. The candle itself, before it is adorned with the decorations, has a lot of meaning for us. The symbols that are on the candle are equally important and symbolic.

**Cross**-the cross is the supreme symbol of Jesus because it was on the cross that Jesus saved the world from sin and death. It is a symbol of our salvation.

**Year**-The year reminds us of God’s presence here and now. At the Easter Vigil the priest traces over the year and prays, “All time belongs to Him, And all the ages.”

**Alpha & Omega**– First and last letters of the Greek alphabet meaning beginning and end.

**Grains of Incense**– These five markers are to symbolize the five wounds of Christ. The incense is to remind us of the spices used in Jesus’ burial.

Other symbols that may appear on the Paschal Candle are: lamb, lamb with a victory banner or cross, lily, dove for the Holy Spirit, grapes and wheat for the Eucharist, or the Chi-Rho symbol (Greek letters for the first two letters of Christ) to name a few. The candle can also be decorated with ornate borders.

The directions for the activity are on the following page. When your family has completed the project, please take a picture of your Paschal Candle and email it to either [egarfold@blessedtrinitypgh.net](mailto:egarfold@blessedtrinitypgh.net) or [ceisenbarth@blessedtrinitypgh.net](mailto:ceisenbarth@blessedtrinitypgh.net). We will be hanging them in the hallway outside of the Faith Formation office during the Easter season. Remember, this is how we keep track of Faith Formation “attendance”. Thank you!

## Directions For the Activity

### Materials:

Handout for candle (printed on paper or cardstock), scissors, glue, black marker, red marker, colored pencils or crayons.

Optional items: additional symbols page, ribbon, lace, magnet, brads

- 1) Color the flame and cross. Cut out candle, flame, cross, Alpha and Omega.
- 2) Glue the cross in the middle and the flame on the top.
- 3) With the black marker write the year in the spaces of the cross.



- 4) Using the red marker mark the wounds of Christ on the cross. You can use brads, stick-on gems, sequins or beads, etc, instead of the red marker.

They should be placed in this order:

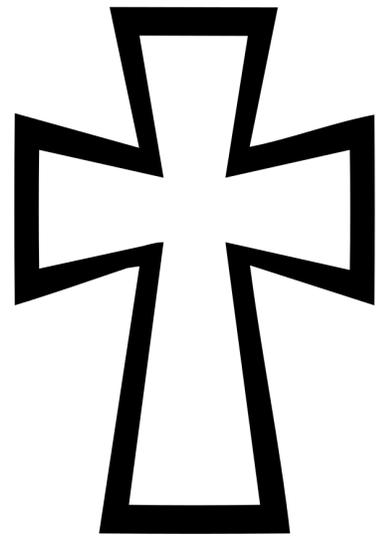
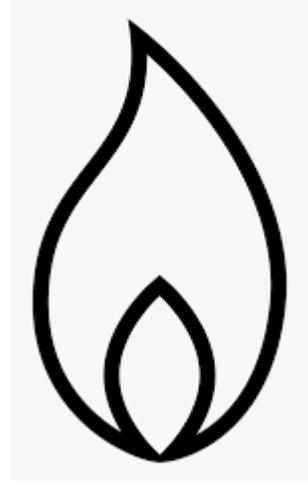
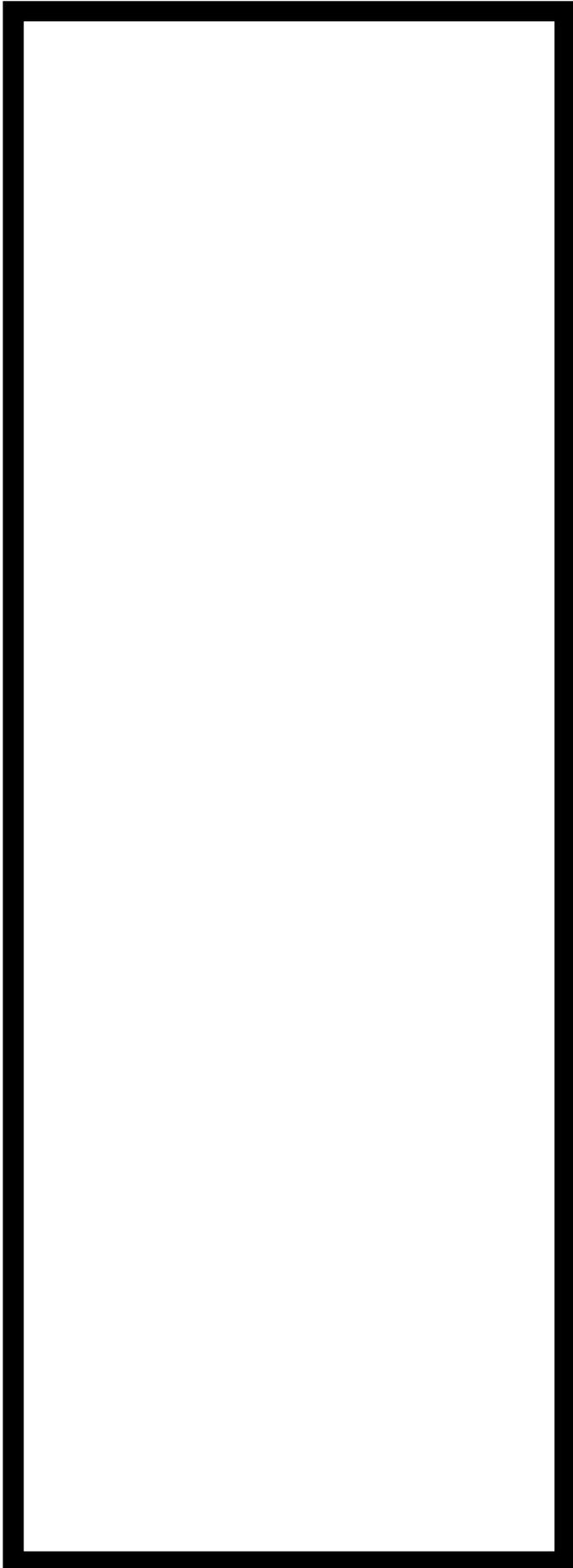
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- 5) Place the Alpha (**Α**) and Omega (**Ω**) symbols on your candle. They can be placed anywhere you like.
- 6) Using any of the additional symbols or materials, you can make your candle as simple or ornate as you would like.

**Option B:** You can be creative and come up with your own way to make a Paschal Candle!

Just be sure to include the necessary symbols!

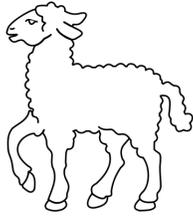




A

Ω

*Paschal Candle  
and Symbols*



*Additional Optional Symbols*