

BLESSING OF EASTER CANDLE ON EASTER SUNDAY

The ministers gather in the entrance of the church in view of the faithful. The Easter candle is carried by an acolyte or other minister. The priest greets the congregation in the usual manner and briefly addresses them in these or similar words:

**Dear friends,
Today we celebrate the glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ,
his triumphant victory over sin and death.
May this candle shine in our midst to remind us
of the paschal mystery in which we share
and which is made present in our midst daily.**

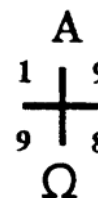
Then the candle is blessed.

**Let us pray.
God our Father, source of all light,
bless + this candle and make it holy.
Through its presence among us
may the light of Christ, risen in glory,
dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.**

[Preparation of the Candle]

Depending on circumstances, the dignity and significance of the candle may be heightened in the following way. The celebrant cuts a cross in the wax with a stylus. Then he traces the Greek letter *alpha* above the cross, the letter *omega* below, and the numerals of the current year between the arms of the cross. Meanwhile he says:

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|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Christ yesterday and today, | (as he traces the vertical arm of the cross) |
| 2. the beginning and the end, | (the horizontal arm) |
| 3. Alpha | (alpha, above the cross), |
| 4. and Omega, | (omega, below the cross) |
| 5. all time belongs to him | (the first numeral, in the upper left corner of the cross) |
| 6. and all the ages, | (the second numeral in the upper right corner) |
| 7. to him be glory and power, | (the third numeral in the lower left corner) |
| 8. through every age for ever. | (the last numeral in the lower right corner) |



When the cross and other marks have been made, the priest may insert five grains of incense in the candle. He does this in the form of a cross, saying:

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|------------------------|-------|
| 1. By his holy | 1 |
| 2. and glorious wounds | |
| 3. may Christ our Lord | 4 2 5 |
| 4. guard us | |
| 5. and keep us. Amen. | 3 |

The candle is then lit. The entrance procession forms with the Easter candle leading the procession. The traditional acclamation is not proclaimed, but the procession is accompanied by an Easter song sung by all. The candle is placed in the traditional place, “on a stand in the middle of the sanctuary or near the lectern.” (*Sacramentary: The Easter Vigil*, n.16)

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