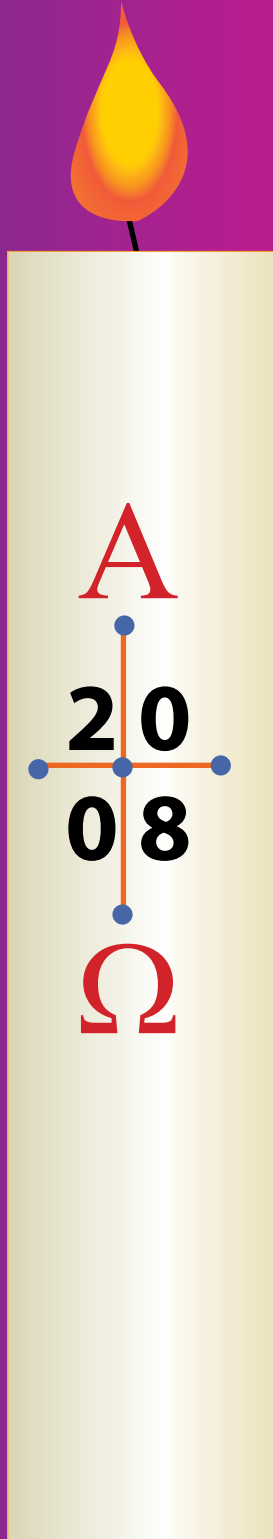


Holy Saturday

Sabbatum Sanctum



On this evening, the Paschal candle is blessed and lit for the first time. It will be used throughout the Easter season and at baptisms until next Easter when a new candle is blessed. The Paschal candle has the symbols of Jesus on it: a cross, the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet (alpha and omega) symbolising that Christ is our beginning and end, and the current year showing that Christ is Lord of our time. Five grains of incense in the form of a cross are inserted as symbols of the five wounds of Christ.

Directions:

Make a family prayer candle to use throughout the year. Decorate it with soft wax or paints. Include your family name and other symbols. Ribbons and holy pictures can be held in place with pins.

Prayer Space

Symbol: candle

[Make the Sign of the Cross and say together]

Father,
we share in the light of your glory through Jesus, the Light of the world!
Make this candle holy
and inflame us with your hope,
Amen.

[Light your candle then together say]

Alleluia Alleluia!
Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
His love has no end.
Alleluia!

[One person read the Gospel Mt 28:1-10 from the family Bible or use this abbreviation.]

After the Sabbath as Sunday was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to the tomb. Suddenly there was a violent earthquake and an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled the stone away and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, his clothes white as snow. The angel spoke to the women: "Do not be afraid – Jesus is risen!"

The Gospel of the Lord.

[Together respond]

Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ!
Alleluia!

[Offer any individual prayers, then together make the Sign of the Cross]



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