

CANDLES IN THE CHURCH



“Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God” (Revelation 4:5)

THE CANDLE

- A precise image of a worshipper standing in the presence of God
- Calm in appearance
- burning in heart with burning fire
 - burns its cool body
 - melts it
 - pours it as tears that flow
 - leaving a circle of light behind it.



THE CANDLE



- Its nature without the work of fire is useless
- The nature of man without the work of the Holy Spirit is useless.
- The candle is like the worshipper.
- It does not give light by itself but when it is lit, it burns and shines
 - It lightens the darkness around it
 - It gives forth heat and warmth to those who surround it.

THE CANDLE



- A candle is a symbol of prayer.
- The act of lighting a candle is a prayer without words.
- Lighting a candle acts as a reminder that others pray with us, living and dead, even if they are not there with us.
- The flame is a symbol of passion, and it points towards Heaven.
- It also reminds us that Christ is the LIGHT of the world.

USE OF CANDLES

- In the early church candles were not used for merely giving light
- They were used even during the day time, especially on feast days
- On those occasions the altar appeared bright and beautiful.



LIGHT OF THE BAPTISM

- Candles are lit by the baptismal font as a sign of enlightenment and the new shining nature of the baptized person.
- The new baptized persons go around the church after the liturgy and after receiving the Holy Communion.
- They wear crowns on their heads and are girded with girdles.
- Candles are held in their hands as a sign of the joy for the new birth.



LIGHT OF THE SCRIPTURES

- At the reading of the Holy Bible, candles are held by two deacons
- The Gospel's light fills the universe
- The Gospel is man's lamp and the light of his way
- He who lives according to the Bible lives in light, walks in light and becomes the son of light and the son of resurrection.



LIGHT OF THE FORERUNNER

- According the Church rites:
 - In the circuit of the Gospel, a deacon holds a candle before the Gospel.
 - This symbolizes St. John the Baptist, the forerunner, who was witnessing to the Light
 - *“This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.” (John 1:7-8)*

LIGHT OF THE SAINTS

- On the feast of the Saints, candles are lit before their icons
- They shine in the kingdom of God
- This honor urges others to follow the example of those saints and imitate them till the end.
- *“Imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.” (Heb 6:12)*



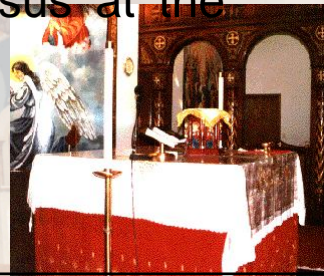
LIGHT OF THE SAINTS

- Lighted oil lamps are hung in front of all the icons indicating that the light of the Lord Christ shone through them.
- The candle lit before the Icon of the Virgin indicates that this is the Mother of light.
- However, a lighted lamp is never placed before the Icon of the Lord Christ, since He is the true light of the world.



LIGHT OF THE ANGELS

- In the Liturgy, there are two lit candles on the two sides of the altar
- They represent the two angels who were by the tomb of Jesus at the time of His resurrection.



LIGHT OF THE STAR

- The oil lamp set in the “Eastern Wall” refers to the star that showed the way to the child Jesus.
- It directs our attention to Christ on the Altar



LIGHT OF CROSS

- The priest holds three candles with the cross, and blesses the people with them.
- Symbolizing that Christ who was crucified on the cross is the Light of the world
- Through the Cross we were transferred from darkness to His light.
- *“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.” (1Pet 2:9)*



LIGHT OF THE DEPARTED RIGHTEOUS

- Candles are used in funerals
- Representing the light that the departed righteous and pious people have shone in their life.
- *“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Matt 5:16)*



LIGHT OF THE RESURRECTION

- On Bright Saturday, there is a special rite performed in Jerusalem
- All the people participate joyfully in celebrating the light of the resurrection.
- Light appears from the Holy Tomb of Christ
- Believers light candles and bring the light from Jerusalem and take it to all parts of the world.



THE CANDLE

- Represents
 - The worshipper
 - Prayers
 - Work of the Holy Spirit



THE CANDLE

- Light of:
 - Baptism
 - Scripture
 - Forerunner
 - Saints
 - Angels
 - Star
 - Righteous departed
 - Cross
 - Resurrection

