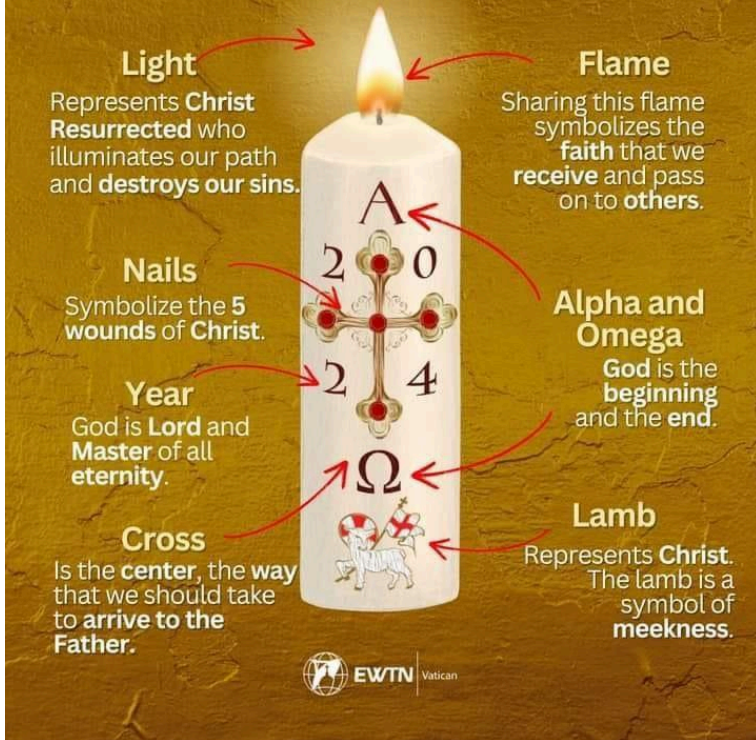


St. John's Newsletter



Symbols of the Paschal Candle

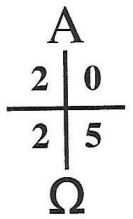


Easter with us all year

While we are in the middle of Lent, it is an opportunity to review many of the elements of our faith that are renewed during Holy Week and are with us the entire year. Two elements are the Paschal Candle and the holy oils.

Paschal Candle

A new Paschal Candle is created at the beginning of the Easter Vigil every year. The candle is lit at every Mass during the Easter season, at baptisms and at funerals throughout the year. The flame of the Paschal Candle represents the light of Christ in our lives. Each candle is marked by the specific year as well as the beautiful symbolic elements that are designed into each Paschal Candle.



Chrism Mass and Holy Oils

Also during Holy Week, every diocese celebrates a **Chrism Mass**. The Chrism Mass is an annual liturgy at which all the priests of the diocese come together for the blessing of the Holy Oils, as well as for the Renewal of the Priestly Vows in front of the Archbishop and the people of God. The renewal of the priestly vows celebrates Jesus sending the apostles out at the passover meal on Holy Thursday with the duties for establishing the Church and spreading the Gospel – the first ministerial priests.

The blessed holy oils are then sent to the parishes and are used throughout the year for the sacraments and for the people. The three Oils are the Oil of the Sick, Oil of Catechumen and Holy Chrism.

Oleum Informorium (Oil of the Sick) is for the healing of body, mind, and soul. It is used for the anointing of the sick so they may experience the compassion of Christ and his saving love.

Olea Sacra (Oil of Catechumen) is used for anointing those preparing for Baptism. Through this anointing they are strengthened by Christ to resist the power of Satan and reject evil in all its forms, as they prepare for the saving waters of Baptism.

Sanctum Chrisma (Holy Chrism) is a mixture of olive oil and perfume that is used to anoint infants after Baptism, those who are to be confirmed, ordination of bishops and priests and dedications of altars and churches.

All are invited to the **Archdiocese of San Antonio Chrism Mass** on Tuesday, April 15, at 6 pm at St. Mark the Evangelist Church, 1602 Thousand Oaks Drive, San Antonio 78232.

Sources:

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/294704369386848814/>
Archdiocese of San Antonio Rite of Election Handout 2025.



Volume 16 - April 2025- St. John's Newsletter is a once-a-month publication aimed at providing you with items of interest about our Catholic faith. If there is a topic you are interested in, please contact the parish office and we will try to address it in future issues. - Submitted by Mary Jo Peters