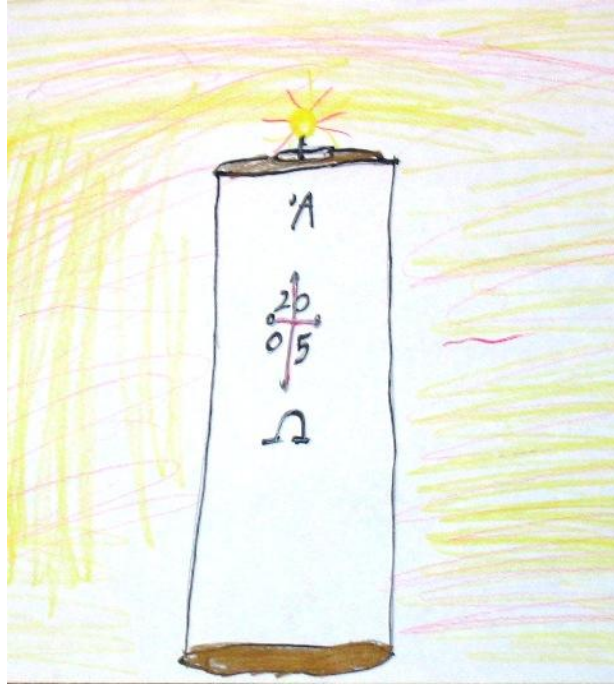


Level I - Preparing the Paschal Candle



The Paschal Candle is prepared at the Easter Vigil each year.
The new year changes on that holy night of nights, not on New Year's Day.

At Baptism, each individual candle is lit from the Paschal Candle.

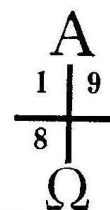
Level I - Preparing the Paschal Candle

Preparation of the Candle

**This candle is a sign and a symbol of our Lord Jesus Christ.
The light represents His risen life, His resurrection.**

10. *The deacon places the Paschal candle in the stand and brings the stylus, numerals and incense to the celebrant, who cuts a cross in the wax with a stylus. 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 as he says:*

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 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 forever.** *(the last numeral in the lower right corner).*



Amen

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

Now I place incense in the candle to remind us of the five wounds of Jesus:

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**

12. **I will now light the Easter Candle.**

The Paschal Candle is lighted from the new fire, then the priest says:

**May the light of Christ, rising in glory,
dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.**