

ALTAR SERVER CANDLES

ABBREVIATIONS

PASTOR	=	Fr. Eugene Radosevich, Pastor of St. Luke, Eureka, IL
DOL	=	Dictionary of the Liturgy
GIRM	=	General Instruction of the Roman Missal

CANDLES

PASTOR: Once you have vested, that is, properly dressed yourself with a server alb and cincture, washed your hands, and combed your hair it is time to light the candles and to make sure that the chalice and gifts are ready.

DOL: Candles and Lights...Because of pagan custom of using lights to restrain demons, the use of candles or lights in worship in the early centuries was solely for practical reasons. However, by the 4th century popular customs arose to use candles for honorary reasons, such as carrying them ahead of the celebrant as a sign of respect, and eventually for religious purposes, giving symbolic emphasis to the candle, as a symbol of Christ...Candles at Mass became obligatory only in the 17th century...Symbolically, the candle represents Christ as the light of the world (Easter Vigil). Illumination by candlelight is usually a sign of joy...electrical bulbs are banned. It is also most unfitting that electric vigil lights be used for devotional purposes...A candle can be considered a Sacramental, and it is burned by the faithful before relics, shrines, and images...

PASTOR: The adult server should help the youth servers to light the candles. No one should use a taper by itself to light the candles because the flame may become too big and wax will most likely drip on the floor. Butane lighters, like the long neck ones that are used to light fireplace logs or charcoal in a grill should NOT be used because of the annoying clicking noise that can distract others who are praying in the church.

PASTOR: Taper...a thin wick coated with wax and used for lighting candles.



PASTOR: Rather, a candle lighter should be used to light the candles.

PASTOR: Candle Lighter...a thin brass or metal tube having a handle and designed to hold a retractable taper for the lighting of candles.



PASTOR: Vertically challenged youth servers will need to be accompanied by the adult server when lighting the altar candles. Together they should proceed from the sacristy, single file, (the youth server goes first) down the side aisle, up the sanctuary ramp. At the top of the ramp, the youth server, genuflects, and then proceeds to light the candle next to the tabernacle.

PASTOR: At the top of the ramp, the adult server genuflects, and while the youth server is lighting the Left Tabernacle Candle, the adult server should carefully remove the glass globe from the Left Altar Candle...

GIRM #295: The Sanctuary...is the place where the altar stands, the word of God is proclaimed, and the priest, deacon and other ministers exercise their offices...



PASTOR: Left Tabernacle Candle...



PASTOR: Left Altar Candle with Globe...



...Then the youth server lights the left altar candle. Once the candle is lit, the adult altar server replaces the glass globe.

PASTOR: Both servers go and stand between the tabernacle and the altar, with the adult server on the left, and the youth server to the right, facing the tabernacle Together the servers genuflect to the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist reserved in the tabernacle. Then the youth server lights the right tabernacle candle, while the adult server removes the glass globe from the candle on the right side of the altar. Once the youth server has lit this candle the adult server replaces the glass globe.

PASTOR: Tabernacle...the shrine or receptacle either round or rectangular that serves as a place for the exclusive reservation of the Real Presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, the Eucharist!



PASTOR: Right Tabernacle Candle...



PASTOR: Right Altar Candle...



PASTOR: Stepping down from the sanctuary onto the floor of the nave of the church, the youth server may extinguish the lighter by retracting the taper into the lighter and then pushing the taper back out about 2 inches to insure that when the taper cools down that the wax does not harden in the lighter causing the taper to stick in the lighter. Both servers stand at the foot of the altar facing the tabernacle, this time with the youth server to the left and the adult server to the right, both servers genuflect to the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist in the Tabernacle and then proceed single file back to the sanctuary by way of the side aisle.

DOL: Nave...the main body of the church reserved for worshipers is the central open space, distinct from the sanctuary or choir and extending to the rear of the church.



PASTOR: There are three other important candles. The first is the Sanctuary Light which is to always be kept burning (except for a short time on Holy Saturday night). If you see that this candle has burned out please tell the adult server. The adult server will replace and light the sanctuary candle. This candle is always kept burning to show that Christ's Real Presence is in the tabernacle as the Holy Eucharist.

DOL: Sanctuary Light...a wax candle or an oil lamp that burns constantly near the tabernacle wherever the Blessed Sacrament is reserved in churches or chapels as a sign of honor shown to the Lord.

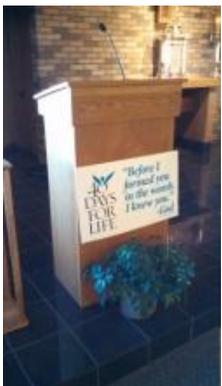


PASTOR: The second important candle is the Easter candle.



PASTOR: Easter Candle... The Easter Candle is used starting at the Easter Vigil and throughout the Easter Season. It is also used at funerals and baptisms. When the Easter Candle is used it is often times placed near the ambo and is lit before Mass by the altar server and extinguished by the altar server after Mass.

GIRM #309: AMBO (i.e., Pulpit) - The dignity of the word of God requires the church to have a place that is suitable for proclamation of the word and which the attentions of the whole congregation of the faithful naturally turns during the Liturgy of the Word. It is appropriate that this place be ordinarily a stationary ambo and not simply a movable lectern. The ambo must be in keeping with the design of each church in such a way that the ordained ministers and lectors may be clearly seen and heard by the faithful...



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PASTOR: The third important candle(s) are those used a procession. While they are simply candles mounted on a candle stick they are often called “processional candles.”

DOL: Candlestick... A prop or support on which is placed a wax candle, and thus a very practical, useful article. Candlesticks used during processions are smaller, less ornate and lightweight, made from various metals or wood. (**Follower**...a brass or metal piece which is placed on top of a candle to help contain melted wax and thus help the candle to burn longer. The Follower is shown in this picture sitting on the counter to the right of the candle stick. The follower is always kept on the candle especially when the candle is lit to help to keep the melted candle wax from being spilled onto the floor.)



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