



*The divine plan of God for all people was accomplished through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. All people would now be eligible to be called sons and daughters of God because of Jesus Christ perfect act of obedience. Because of him, we will one day rise from the grave, like Christ, in our glorified bodies. **The resurrection was the basis of the new Christian faith.** Had it not happened, Christianity would never have started. There would have been no Easter Sunday. Peter would have returned with his companions to their fishing nets and boats, and Jesus Christ would have been forgotten after a few short years.*

*Mary Magdalene's discovery of an empty tomb brought shock and fear. She ran to Peter and told him that she thought someone had stolen the body of Jesus. Peter had to see for himself and check out the facts. We might take notice of how the clothes were folded after they discovered Jesus' body was gone. **They would not have been arranged that way if there had been a robbery.** The disciples were completely surprised when they found the empty tomb. It was only then that they remembered that Jesus had said that he would rise again.*



*Many people today do not believe in Jesus because the "facts" do not check out. **We can only accept the fact of the resurrection when we have first personally encountered Jesus Christ.***

*The understanding of the resurrection takes on a special meaning as we commit our lives to Jesus and his presence remains with us. **Jesus' resurrection is the key to our Christian faith because death, as we know it, is not the end.***

*Jesus' death brought us freedom from sin and death. **We are now called to free others from sin and death here on earth.***

Some of us can do that by our professions as medical people, legal people, politicians, educators, business people, parents, and children.

This week free someone in your family, home or work from a chore that you know they don't like. Let them see that joy in someone who really knows that he is free. Then each day have your family gather together to pray that all may become free from sin through Jesus Christ. Because of him, you are free. Let freedom ring throughout this land.



Jesus Folded His Napkin

John 20:7 tells us that the napkin that was placed over the face of Jesus was not just thrown aside like the grave clothes. The Bible takes an entire verse to tell us that the napkin was neatly folded, and was placed at the head of that stony coffin. Is that significant? Absolutely!

In order to understand the significance of the folded napkin, you have to understand a little bit about Hebrew tradition of that day. The folded napkin had to do with the master and servant, and every Jewish boy knew this tradition.

When the servant set the dinner table for the master, he made sure that it was exactly the way the master wanted it. The table was furnished perfectly, and then the servant would wait, just out of sight, until the master had finished eating, and the servant would not dare touch that table until the master was finished. If the master was done eating, he would rise from the table, wipe his fingers, his mouth, and clean his beard, and would wad up that napkin and toss it onto the table. The servant would then know to clear the table. For

in those days, the wadded napkin meant, "I'm done."

But if the master got up from the table, folded his napkin, and laid it beside his plate, the servant would not dare touch the table because the servant knew that the folded napkin meant, "I'm not finished yet." The folded napkin meant, "I'm coming back!" He (the master, Jesus) is coming back! Hallelujah!

The Shroud of Turin Website



The Shroud of Turin is a centuries old linen cloth that bears the image of a crucified man. A man that millions believe to be Jesus of Nazareth. Is it really the cloth that wrapped his crucified body, or is it simply a medieval forgery, a hoax perpetrated by some clever artist?

Modern science has completed hundreds of thousands of hours of detailed study and intense research on the Shroud. It is, in fact, the single most studied artifact in human history, and we know more about it today than we ever have before. And yet, the controversy still rages. The website <https://shroud.com>, will keep you abreast of current research, provide you with accurate data from the previous research and let you interact with the researchers themselves. We believe that if you have access to the facts, you can make up your own mind about the Shroud. Make sure you visit the page where you can *examine the Shroud of Turin* for yourself.

Triduum



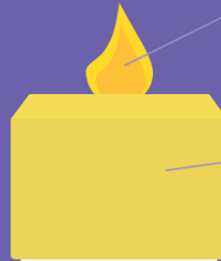
Triduum is a Latin word that refers to the three days from *sundown Holy Thursday* to *sundown Easter Day*. Triduum is pronounced tree do 'em.

AN ILLUSTRATED GUIDE TO THE PASCHAL CANDLE

BY JONATHAN TEIXEIRA FOR THE FOCUS BLOG



That candle in the front of the Church isn't just really big, it's also really special. Let's take a look.



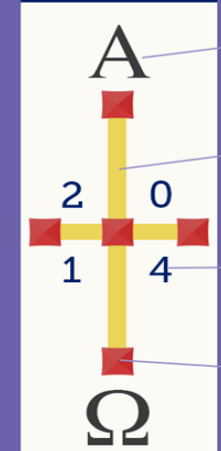
THE FLAME
symbolizes the light of Christ. "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." (John 1:4-5) The lit candle also recalls the pillar of fire and cloud the Israelites followed in the desert.

THE CANDLE FOLLOWER
helps the candle burn evenly and prevents wax from dripping everywhere. This practical widget is used on many candles in the church and has no particular symbolism.



THE CANDLE
must be at least 51% beeswax. This is because beeswax is precious stuff (it takes a lot of bees' work to make it) and the sacraments are precious, serious things. It also brings God's creation into the celebration.

DECORATIONS
other than those mentioned below can be very elaborate, quite simple, or even nonexistent. The elements listed below can be presented in a variety of ways. The candle at left is one example.

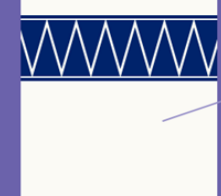


ALPHA & OMEGA
are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet and are used to symbolize Christ as the "beginning and the end." (Revelation 22:13)

THE CROSS
of Christ, the symbol of Christianity. Signifies that this is the paschal candle, and it's all about Jesus.

THE YEAR
reminds us that Jesus is king of all time, even this year! He's with us, right here, right now.

5 GRAINS OF INCENSE
(often formed into wax nails) are inserted into the candle, symbolizing the 5 wounds of Christ.



THE TYPICAL PASCHAL CANDLE
is between 3-5 feet tall, weighing between 4-10 pounds. The cathedral in Salisbury, England is said to have had a candle measuring 36 feet tall in the Middle Ages.

The paschal candle is blessed and lit for the first time at the Easter Vigil. The deacon carries it into the dark church, stopping three times to sing "Christ be our light!" to which the people respond, "Thanks be to God!" It is the candle from which all others are lit that night, and it is also used to bless the baptismal font.

The paschal candle is lit for all liturgies during the Easter season as well as at baptisms and funerals all year round. The unused portions of paschal candles are often melted down to make new ones.

This Illustrated Guide to the Paschal Candle was created by Jonathan Teixeira for the FOCUS Blog as part of LentSantify. Read more great articles and check out more Illustrated Guides at focus.org/blog. FOCUS: The Fellowship of Catholic University Students launches college students into lifelong Catholic mission. Learn more at focus.org. You can find Jonathan on twitter @jonteixeira and at the blog he writes with his wife, Amanda at triduumandpaschal.net.