

The Easter Candle

1. Take the children to church and have them gather around the Easter candle.
2. Remind the class that they learned about incense in the “Catholics Believe” box in Chapter 17.
3. Call attention to the five grains of incense embedded around the cross on the candle.
4. Tell the children that these grains represent, or remind us, of the five wounds Jesus suffered before his death: the wounds from the nails on his hands and feet and the wound on his side from the soldier’s sword.
5. You may also want to explain other symbols on the candle: the Greek letters Alpha and Omega, the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. These words tell us that our hope and salvation begins and ends in Jesus. Note that the lettering indicates the current year.
6. Tell the children that at funeral Masses, the Paschal candle is lit and placed next to the casket. Tell them that this is a sign that we share in Jesus’ new life.

