

The Marriage Candle

Candles are lit in church at the Altar and in the sanctuary – especially the Paschal or Easter Candle – reminding us of God’s presence in our lives, shining upon us and within us the divine radiance of truth and wisdom, goodness and love, beauty and peace.

May the Blessed Trinity – the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit who are present to us here today in this ceremony, and in the lives of the couple – shine upon us and enlighten us in Christ. The three divine Persons were pleased to dwell in us in innocence at Baptism, and from then on the light of Christ was to be kept burning brightly in us – by faith, worship, prayer, and by living in accord with the Gospel.

To begin the Marriage Liturgy, two Baptism candles – signs of the Christian faith of the bride and groom – are usually lit after the homily by the parents, who first asked God to give their children the gift of faith and eternal life through Baptism. This lighting begins the Marriage Rite.

The Marriage Candle, when candles are incorporated into the Marriage Rite, is lit at the conclusion of the Rite. The newlywed couple then light this one candle from the fire of their two Baptism candles, signifying their free commitment to become one in faith and love and set aside their individual lives in order to begin a married life as a couple.

As each day they freely die to their self, and live for love of the other, they become the loving heart of a new family, which by faith is founded in God and his love for them, and is open to the children God will entrust to them and with whom He will bless them. They enter Marriage with trust in God, and as their first act of love as a couple, they offer a symbolic gift for the poor with the altar gifts.