

St. Aloysius Religious Education 2017-2018
3rd Grade

4:00pm Welcome (To ensure accuracy, **class attendance must be accurately recorded by a catechist** and not another student - class attendance is an official document retained by the parish and the diocese) and the Paschal Candle coloring page.

4:05pm We Gather - in Prayer at the prayer table
(*use colored table covering for appropriate liturgical season*)
Use the Gospel Reading “Hearing the Word” from the previous Sunday in Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families book in the prayer box.

4:10pm **Chapter #21 & #27 The Three Days & Easter**

8:55am/4:10pm ***Special presentation by St. Aloysius Religious Education staff of “The Three Days – Triduum and Easter” - includes making a Paschal Candle in Stapleton Social Hall.***



The blessing of the paschal, or Easter candle, is an ancient tradition and the paschal candle is the most important of all church candles!

The Paschal candle represents Christ, the Light of the World;

- the pure beeswax of which the candle is made represents the sinless Christ who was formed in the womb of His Mother.
- the wick signifies His humanity,
- the flame, His Divine Nature, both soul and body.

Five grains of incense inserted into the candle in the form of a cross recall the aromatic spices with which His Sacred Body was prepared for the tomb, and of the five wounds in His hands, feet, and side.

During the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday night a bonfire – *The Easter fire* - symbolizing our eternal life in Christ, is kindled outside of the front of the church in a large brazier and the Paschal candle is lit from that flame. When the Paschal candle is lit, it represents Christ's triumph over darkness and death. The priest or deacon carries the Paschal candle in procession into the dark church, pausing three times to chant “*Christ Our Light!*” From its flame, the smaller candles of the faithful at the liturgy are lighted. The Paschal candle, representing Christ himself, is blessed by the priest who then inscribes in it a cross saying “*Christ yesterday and today, the beginning and the end*”, the first letters and last of the Greek alphabet, (Alpha and Omega `the beginning and the end') are added and the current year, as he chants a prayer and then affixes the five grains of incense sealed with five nails with the words “*By His holy ... And glorious wounds ... may Christ our Lord ... guard us ... and keep us. Amen*”.

The Easter candle is lighted each day during Mass (stands near the altar) throughout the Paschal season the 50-day period between Easter Sunday and Pentecost Sunday. The paschal candle is lit for baptismal celebrations when it is used to light tapers to be given to the newly baptized. It is also placed at the head of the casket during funeral services.

<http://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=9017>
http://oce.catholic.com/index.php?title=Paschal_Candle

4:55pm Closing Prayer –

“*By His holy ... And glorious wounds ... may Christ our Lord
... guard us ... and keep us. Amen.*”

Ask the children to say a petition aloud for someone or something they would like to pray for.

“*What do I do to celebrate Easter?*”