Lighting a Candle for A Prayer Intention

Go into just about any Catholic church anywhere in the world and you will see a rack of votive candles, usually in beside a statue, icon, tabernacle, or other sacred image. Our parish is no exception. People can come in, say a prayer, and light a candle. Have you ever thought about why we do this? What is the purpose of the candle? Why not just offer our prayer and be on our way?

Candles and prayer go hand in hand in the Catholic tradition. We are supposed to have at least two candles on the altar whenever Mass is celebrated. Candles are lit during times of Adoration. Many churches and chapels also use candles elsewhere in the sanctuary, such as near the tabernacle or by the ambo where the gospel is read. Even when no liturgy is taking place there is always at least one candle burning by the tabernacle indicating the Sacramental Presence of Christ.

The candle symbolizes light in the darkness of life especially individual life, illumination; it is the symbol of holy illumination of the spirit of truth. Lit in times of death, they signify the light in the next world, and they represent Christ as the light.

So, what do we do during this time that the church is closed? Create a space at home whereby you can continue the ritual of lighting a candle for a special intention or loved one, say a prayer.

Prayer Before Lighting The Candle

*Father in heaven,*

*the light of Jesus has dispersed the darkness of hatred and sin*

*Accept this candle and let the light of your truth guide me to your kingdom*

*Inflame my heart with your grace*

*Keep me in the radiance of your truth and love*

*Fill my heart with your divine love and please help me in my needs \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (mention your petition)*

*Through the prayers of Mary, virgin and mother, I place in your care those I come to remember, especially \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.*

*Grant this through Christ our Lord and through the intercession of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (mention your guardian angel).*

*Amen.*

Our Father…… Hail Mary…… Glory Be……

WARNING: WHEN LIGHTING A CANDLE CHILDREN SHOULD NOT BE LEFT UNATTENDED. ADULTS MUST BE PRESENT AT ALL TIMES.