

Notes for the 2021 Paschal Candle St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

The theme of the 2021 Paschal Candle is *The Year of St. Joseph*
Candle Maker: Anne Therese Stephens
Candle Designer/Painter: Art Cislo

This is the first year that our Paschal candle has been hand-made as well as hand-painted. Parishioner Anne Therese Stephens hand-crafted our 5' tall, 9 3/4" in-circumference Paschal candle for 2021 with 100% pure beeswax. The beautiful natural color and fragrance of the beeswax is wonderful to savor!

Pope Francis declared 2021 to be *The Year of St. Joseph*. To commemorate this with our 2021 Paschal Candle, Fr. Andrew suggested a series of scenes taken from St. Joseph's important role in the Gospels:

- The Betrothal of Mary and Joseph
- Sleeping Joseph
- The Nativity
- The Flight into Egypt
- The Presentation in the Temple
- Joseph Teaching Young Jesus Carpentry in the Workshop
- The Death of Joseph, with Jesus and Mary by his side

The central crucifix is a sculpted beeswax design inspired by an engraving from the mid-20th century English artist and poet, David Jones.

The Latin inscription on the back of the candle, *Ad te, beate Joseph* (To you, blessed Joseph) is the official prayer to St. Joseph which was composed by Pope Leo XIII in his 1889 encyclical *Quamquam Pluries*, and which Pope Francis encourages the faithful to pray. It reads:

“To you, O blessed Joseph, do we come in our afflictions, and having implored the help of your most holy Spouse, we confidently invoke your patronage also.

Through that charity which bound you to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God and through the paternal love with which you embraced the Child Jesus, we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood, and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities.

O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family, defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ; O most loving father, ward off from us every contagion of error and corrupting influence; O our most mighty protector, be kind to us and from heaven assist us in our struggle with the power of darkness.

As once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril, so now protect God's Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity; shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection, so that, supported by your example and your aid, we may be able to live piously, to die in holiness, and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven. Amen.”

