

Candles and Icons



Instruction Manual for the
Candles and Icons Team of
Holy Ascension Orthodox Christian Mission
Melbourne, Australia

Candles

Meaning and Symbolism

There are many profound symbols behind the candle.

The candle represents the Light of Christ, the flame of faith.

It represents the purity of our soul because it is made of pure beeswax.

It also represents the plasticity of our soul because we can easily engrave anything on it.

It represents deification, to which we must aim, because the candle is mixed with fire.

It represents the light of Christ because, as it burns, it illuminates the darkness.

It represents the love and peace which are attributes that every Christian should have because the candle burns and comforts everyone with its light in the darkness.

When lighting a candle, we must remember that we must live in the light we received with our baptism.

Every time we light a candle the flame and the light should remind us of God.

Lighting a candle on entering church expresses our belief that Jesus is the Light of the world and that as His disciple, I am called daily to reflect His light in my life.

Safety and Weekly Maintenance

Someone (or two, or three people) must always keep an eye on candles during services, activities and events at the Mission. **This is a must.**

Don't have too many candles lit as they will just melt over each other, perhaps fall onto the divider screens or on the floor and set a fire.

Extinguish candles (both tapers and the pilot candle) when they burn down to a small stub.

Extinguish by butting them out in the sand or have a small bucket with water. Use the candle snuffer to extinguish pilot candles and larger, thicker candles.

Dispose candle stubs in candle bin. The candle bin is located underneath the candle stand, next to the icon stand. There is also a bucket located underneath the candle stand which you can fill with water to extinguish candles or as a general precaution against fire.

When the candle bin is full, throw out paraffin candles in regular waste. If they are beeswax candles, keep the beeswax candle stubs as the re-supplier may wish to recycle the beeswax.

Replace candles in candle basket on the candle desk once a week. A half-full or almost empty candle basket is not a good look. You will find boxes of tapers and other candles under the candle desk.

In case of fire, use bucket of sand/water (under candle desk) or fire blanket (on candle desk).

Cleanliness of Candle Area

It is important to always keep the Candle Area clean and presentable as befits a place of worship to the Almighty.

Vacuum around the Candle Area, including underneath the candle stand and candle desk and around the icon stand.

Keep the candle desk clean. Over time dust and sand build up on the candle desk, the candle basket and the commemoration tray. Remove items from candle desk and dust/wipe down candle desk. Clean the commemoration tray and the candle basket by removing dust and sand.

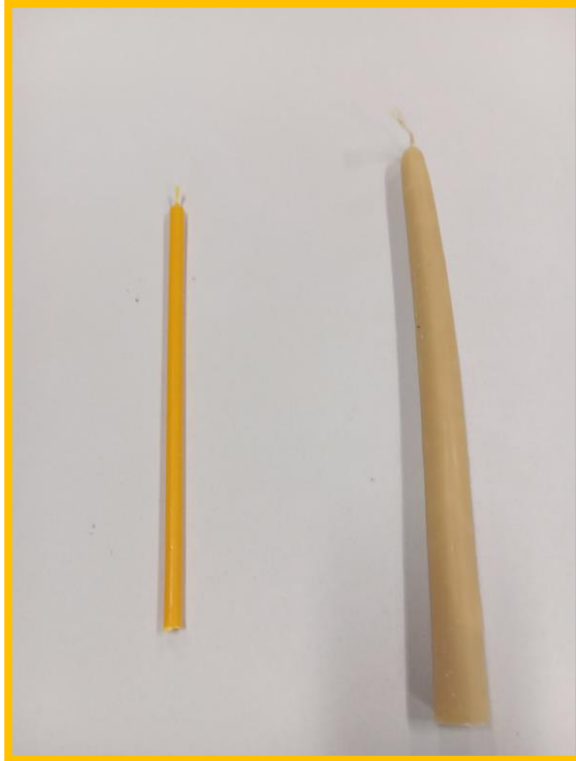
Keep the candle desk and the icon stand presentable. Make sure the covers are presentable and not crumpled.



Re-Supply

Candles need to be replenished at least once a year depending on frequency of usage.

We usually order one box of tapers (Tapers are the “spaghetti-thin” candles).



*Left: Taper
Right: Pilot Candle*

Beeswax is always preferable, but also the more expensive option.

When we are running low on candles, you should notify your team leader or either Fr Kyril or Erica (the Mission Secretary and a Choir Leader). Let them know when we are down to our last box of candles (tapers) and when that last box is half full. Please do not forget to notify or wait until we have run out of candles completely to resupply or to notify your team leader or either Fr Kyril or Erica.

Suppliers – Paraffin Candles

You can purchase a **box of paraffin tapers** from:

Angel Candles

3 Bailey Ave, Keilor East

Phone: (03) 9336 4648

Email: info@angelcandles.com.au

Web: angelcandles.com.au

Contos Candle Makers

43 McIntosh St, Airport West

Phone: (03) 9338 4984

Suppliers – Paraffin & Beeswax Candles

You can purchase a **box of paraffin** or a **box of beeswax tapers** from:

St Paraskevi Greek Orthodox Church

22 Marsden Crescent, St Albans

Phone: (03) 9367 2860

Email: admin@stparaskevi.org.au

Web: stparaskevi.org.au

Prilep Candles

1/25 Norwich Avenue, Thomastown

Phone: 03 9460 1605

Web: prilepcandles.com.au

Suppliers – Beeswax Candles

You can purchase a **box of beeswax tapers** from:

Pantanassa Monastery

567 Mangrove Creek Rd
Mangrove Creek, NSW 2250

Email: admin@pantanassa.org.au

www.pantanassa.org.au/product-category/candles/

Sand

Sand needs sifting once a week. You will find a bag of sand with a scoop under the candle table.

Replenish sand as needed.

Buy washed, fine sand from places like Bunnings. Do not use sand straight from beaches. It may be contaminated and polluted and befouled by animals (and humans!).

Icon Stand

Icons are windows into Heaven. The veneration we give shows our respect for Christ, the Theotokos and the Saints who are in Heaven.

Cleanliness of Icon Stand

It is important to keep the Icon Stand clean and presentable at all times as befits a place of worship to the Almighty.

Vacuum around the Icon Stand Area, including underneath the candle stand and candle desk and around the icon stand.

Keep the ledge/base where the icons rest clean. Over time dust, flower remains and even sand may build up.





Keep lectern ledge clean

Keep the Icon Stand presentable. Make sure the covers are presentable and not crumpled.

Cleanliness of Icons

It is important to keep icons resting on the Icon Stand clean and presentable at all times as befits a place of worship to the Almighty.

Remember these icons are being venerated by the faithful.

Lip marks from lip balms and lip stick (or just marks on icons left by over-zealous people venerating icons with much fervor!) are unsightly.

Icons are considered sacred and holy. It is disrespectful to leave icons unsightly and dirty.

You will find some bottles of Rose Water, on a shelf, behind the Icon Stand. Spray some Rose Water on the icons.



Rose water located on shelf of icon stand (behind cover)

Wipe the icons dry with paper towels. You will find paper towels/serviettes in the kitchenette. You can also pour some Rose Water onto paper towels and wipe down icons. Discard paper towels in bin located in the kitchenette.

Put the Rose Water bottles back on the shelf, behind the Icon Stand.

You will find spare Rose Water bottles and Paper Towels in the cupboard in the Meeting Room.

Please do not forget to notify the relevant person to resupply Rose Water and/or Paper Towels. Please do not wait until we have completely run out of Rose Water and/or Paper Towels to notify the relevant person. If you do not know who the relevant person is, ask someone in your team, your team leader or Fr Kyril or Erica the Mission Secretary.

You may consider donating Rose Water or Paper Towels as part of your regular giving to the Mission. See the next section on Rose Water for details.

Continuity (Philotimo)

If you cannot fulfill your duties due to illness or otherwise:

- Exchange contacts with others in your team to notify them.
- Notify others in your team to fill in for you.
- If team leader cannot fulfill duties, contact another member in your team to fill in.
- If team leader and no other team member can fill in = Contact Erica or Fr Kyril.

Rose Water

Quite simply, rose water is used to wipe icons, crosses and anything else that may be frequently “kissed” by the faithful to:

- Remove lip-marks and various other smudges.
- Leave icons with a pleasant aroma.

Rose water may be purchased from supermarkets like Coles and Woolworths (check the International Food Section), and from Greek delis as well as specialist grocery shops (Middle-Eastern groceries, delis, nut shops...etc, around Melbourne).

