

October 25, 2020

Good Morning All,

Hope this morning finds you well and rested.

1. Today's Readings: <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/102520.cfm>

2. **The RE Corner with Jan Heithaus:** Have you ever wondered why Catholic churches have stands of votive candles and people light them? Or do you light them yourself but not sure how to explain the reason why?

3. Quotes of the Day:

a. All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of a single candle. *St. Francis of Assisi*

b. Enlighten me, O Good Jesus, with the brightness of Internal light, and cast out all darkness from the dwelling of my heart. *St. Therese of Lisieux*

c. I do not know how to pray. I do not know what to say. I do not have much time. So? This candle light is: Something of what I have, Something of my time, Something of myself, That I leave before the Lord.
This light that shines stands for my prayer that I continue to offer even as I leave this place. *A prayer of French Origin*

4. Sunday Song: This Little Light of Mine

This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine,
This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine,
This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Everywhere I go, I'm going it let it shine,
Everywhere I go, I'm going it let it shine,
Everywhere I go, I'm going it let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

All through the night, I'm going to let it shine,
All through the night, I'm going to let it shine,
All through the night, I'm going to let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Parish Office Communication

Spend a quiet day with the Lord today and pray to Him that your light shines for all to

see everyday.



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Why do Catholics light votive candles?



Is it some sort of superstition?

Almost nothing says “Catholic” like votive candles, especially if they are placed before images or statues in a church setting. When a film or television show wants the audience to know a character is Catholic, a confessional or a rack of votive candles is sure to turn up.

Confession, of course is a sacrament, but what about those candles? Are they a superstitious practice?

Actually, just the opposite.

“I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life” (John 8:12).

At our Easter Vigil, when the deacon or priest enters the darkened church with the single Easter candle, he intones, “Christ, our Light.” To which the congregation

replies, "Thanks be to God." This recalls how Jesus came into our world of sin and death to bring the light of God to us.

Besides being used to illuminate the places where the early Christians celebrated Mass, candles were also lighted at the tombs of martyrs. Father William Saunders explains that "there is evidence that lit candles or oil lamps were burned at the tombs of saints, particularly martyrs, by the 200s, and before sacred images and relics by the 300s."

In this context the "light signifies our prayer offered in faith coming into the light of God. With the light of faith, we petition our Lord in prayer, or petition the saint to pray with us and for us to the Lord." The word "vigil" comes from the Latin *vigilia* and refers to keeping watch. The vigil candle that is lit remains so for a period of time (either a certain number of hours or a few days) and symbolizes how the person desires "to remain present to the Lord in prayer even though we may depart and go about our daily business." It also reminds the individual how the saint is constantly praying for their petitions.

Another word for these candles is a "votive" candle and comes from the Latin *votum*, meaning promise, dedication or simply "prayer." It reinforces the idea that the candles represent our prayers before God.

As humans, we are body and soul and our prayers often need to be expressed in a physical, tangible way. This helps our soul be at rest and is a way to deepen our spirituality. Similar to incense, the light of the candles is a physical reminder that points our souls to God. We light them not because we believe our prayers will be better heard by God, but because we need something visual to connect our body and soul.

Source: *aleteia.com*