

NOTES FROM THE LITURGIST...

Light is very essential in our lives. It gives us direction, guidance and illumine the darkness in our lives.

The practice of lighting candles is an essential tradition in Catholic Churches. In almost every Catholic celebration, there is a ritual of lighting candles. As an example, candles are lit during the celebration of the mass and special liturgies. Perpetual candle is lit before or near the tabernacle to signify the presence of the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament and to call for reverence on the part of the faithful.

This is the reason why, as of you have noticed or maybe wondering, there are six candles on the altar, yes, it is already permanent on the altar. Below is the explanation for the six candles which I quoted from the General Instruction of the Roman Missal (G.I.R.M.)

117. “The altar is to be covered with at least one white cloth. In addition, on or next to the altar are to be placed candlesticks with lighted candles: at least two in any celebration, or even four or six, especially for a Sunday Mass or a Holyday of Obligation, or if the Diocesan Bishop celebrates, then seven candlesticks with lighted candles. Likewise, on the altar or close to it, there is to be a cross adorned with a figure of Christ crucified. The candles and the cross with the figure of Christ crucified may also be carried in the procession at the Entrance. On the altar itself may be placed a Book of the Gospels distinct from the book of other readings, unless it is carried in the Entrance Procession.”



Let us then, bear in mind that as we celebrate our sacred liturgies, our sacraments and our special prayers, Christ as the source of all Light, shall come to us to be ever present, to strengthen us, to instruct us against the shadow of doubt and darkness.

-ACE TUPASI