

CARING For Wax Candles, Metal Church Appointments, Vessels, Altar Cloths and Linens

Caring for Your Oil Candles

Oil Candle Care Information

It is strongly recommended that you use only Lux Mundi Altar Pure Paraffin for your oil candles (available from Jensen Church Supplies). Altar Pure Paraffin is 99.4% pure paraffin, the cleanest burning formula available. Lux Mundi's special blend of Altar Pure Paraffin assures a smoke and soot free environment. A lesser quality candle oil, such as lamp oil, may harm your candles.

Filling Refillable Oil Candles

Fill with Lux Mundi Altar Pure Paraffin up to approximately 1/2 to 3/4 inches below the top. Filling to the top will result in oil overflow, down the outside of the candle, giving the appearance of 'leaking.' Lux Mundi oil candles are machined from solid nylon stock. Install brass follower and allow the Lux Wick to saturate for about five minutes. Over time, varying with usage, the lighted end of the wick will develop a layer of crystallized carbon. This can be removed with a soft cloth by squeezing gently and rubbing the wick between your fingers with the soft cloth. It is not necessary to trim (snip) the wick, as is common with wax candles. Do not allow your refillable candle to run low or out of paraffin. This will result in permanent wick damage and will have to be replaced. When properly maintained, the wick will perform effectively for years. Replacement wicks are available from [Jensen Church Supplies website](#). Replacement wicks are longer than the inside depth of many oil candles (depths vary with candle sizes). Measure the inside depth of your oil candle and cut the length of the replacement wick to that depth measurement. When installing a new wick, pull it down through the top of the follower; use a wire tie (from loaf of bread packaging). Tie to the end of wick and pull it through the hole from the top down. Screw threaded ferrule into top of follower. There are two small "breathing" holes on the top of the follower. Keep them open using a paper clip.

Adjusting flame height

Adjusting flame height is rather easy. Simply use thumb and finger, grasping top of wick, ever so slowly, and just a little bit at a time, pull up on the wick for a taller flame (the taller the flame the faster the oil will be consumed. Conversely, the shorter the flame the slower the oil will be consumed.) To reduce flame height, carefully pull wick down from the underside of the brass follower, a little at a time. A new wick will have to be installed should the wick be accidentally pulled out of the threaded ferrule.

Cleaning the exterior of your solid nylon shell

The exterior nylon surface of your candle is easily cleaned. It may be washed with mild soap and water, (not the brass) using terry-cloth fabric. Other effective cleaners for the nylon are denatured alcohol and store brand cleaners such as Fantastic or 409. Stubborn stains? Rub with a fine Scotchbrite pad. Please remove the brass follower before cleaning the nylon candle.

Cleaning the brass follower and socket

Lux Mundi brass followers and sockets are protected with a clear lacquer coating. Without this coating the brass will tarnish. You can greatly extend the life of your lacquered brass appointments with little maintenance. Be sure to wipe off fingerprints after handling using a damp, lightly soaped, terry-cloth fabric. Every few months, rub a little plain auto wax on the brass, using a soft cotton cloth (do not use paper towels. Paper towels are wood-fiber based and will scratch). Buff to a nice shine. Never polish any

coating-protected brass with metal polish. Metal polish, such as Brasso, is an abrasive and will strip away the protective coating, exposing the brass. Ugly tarnishing will ensue. Please do not touch or clean the brass follower until it has cooled. Take care not to over tighten the brass followers as removal may be difficult after use.

A Guide for the Proper Care and Use of Church Candles

Candle Followers

Candle followers, also referred to as candle burners or wax savers, are available in all sizes to fit the largest Paschal to the smallest Altar candle. Candles properly fitted with followers will insure maximum burning time, and minimize the potential for problems.

A correct size follower is determined by the diameter of the candle to be used. Your church goods dealer can assist you in selecting the proper sized follower for your Cathedral candles.

A clean, glistening follower looks better and performs better. To remove any accumulated wax from the follower, immerse in warm water and wipe clean with a soft cloth. Use of abrasives may affect the finish of the followers.



Preparing

1. Seat properly sized candle **FIRMLY** and **VERTICALLY STRAIGHT** in the candlestick. Tilted candles may cause irregular burning and dripping.



2. Approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ INCH of **EXPOSED WICK** is recommended for efficient burning. Trim if necessary.



3. A candle follower must be used for the satisfactory and economical performance of your candle. Use only a follower that is the **CORRECT SIZE** for the candle diameter. Before seating a follower on any candle it should be cleaned of all wax both inside and out. To seat the follower place it on the shoulder of the candle giving it a snug $\frac{1}{4}$ turn. Visually inspect follower to insure it is straight on the candle and that a perfect seal has been achieved. A perfect seal is when all edges of the top rim, or shoulder, of the candle are touching the inside of the follower.

4. Before placing candles on the altar, **STRAIGHTEN THE WICK** and pre-condition the candle by burning for at least **TWO MINUTES**.

Lighting

1. Extend lighting taper 1 inch out from candle lighter **BEFORE** lighting.



2. When lighting the candles do not touch candle wick or follower with the lighter. **HANDLE LIGHTER CAREFULLY** to avoid pieces of taper or wick from breaking off and falling into the candle cup. These broken off pieces may act as a second wick, creating a double flame resulting in candle failure.



3. After extinguishing taper flame by retracting into candle lighter tube, **IMMEDIATELY EXTEND TAPER OUT** from tube to avoid wax build-up and jamming. Inspect to insure taper is completely extinguished.



Extinguishing

1. Always use a candle extinguisher to put out candle flame. Never blow out candle. To extinguish, gently place extinguisher over candle follower, being very careful not to touch either the wick or follower. The follower is resting on both liquid and soft wax, tilting it or compressing it with the extinguisher may cause the candle to malfunction the next time it is used.

2. To avoid afterglow always allow a candle to burn at least two minutes before extinguishing. Afterglow may cause a wick to shorten itself making it difficult to relight.

Care While Burning

1. Try not to disturb candles that are performing satisfactorily.
2. Place candles out of the way of drafts. Air flow, from sources such as ceiling fans, heating or air conditioning ducts, or perhaps a sacristy door that was left open, may need to be redirected.
3. Inspect the top, or burning cup, of candles weekly to detect conditions that may cause improper burning. This is particularly important with Paschal candles where the burning cup is above eye level and problems might otherwise go undetected.



Conditions to look for:

A Broken portions of wick or foreign objects such as pieces of lighting tapers, matches, or wooden lighting sticks, that have become imbedded in wax **MUST BE REMOVED** to prevent them from acting as a second wick, creating a double flame resulting in candle failure. It may be necessary to recondition the candle head as described below.



B The candle wick has become too long and is perhaps curled over. This accelerates the burning of the candle and may cause the candle to malfunction. Trim the length of the wick back to $\frac{3}{4}$ ". It may be necessary to recondition the candle head as described below.



C If the candle wick is too short it will be difficult to relight. Once lit the flame may not be large enough to allow the candle to perform adequately. It may be necessary to recondition the candle head as described below.

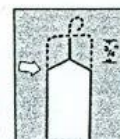


D Large diameter candles must remain lit long enough for the entire top, or burning cup, of the candle to become liquified. In circumstances where a candle does not remain lit for the required length of time, it has a tendency to burn down the center of the candle body causing the candle to malfunction. When this happens it may be necessary to recondition the candle head as described below.



Reconditioning

Using a dull knife remove all debris and or darkened wax from head of candle. Next expose $\frac{3}{4}$ " of good wick being careful not to cut into or damage wick. Finish off by making shoulders of candle symmetrical and level, this is most important to insure the proper reseating of a follower. Continue with step 3 under preparing.



Jensen Church Supplies

Post Office Box 91

Iron Mountain, Michigan 49801

(906) 396-2745

www.jensenchurchsupplies.com

jensencs@charter.net

Serving The Church Since 1981

Care for Metal Church Appointments and Vessels

General Recommendations

Wear clean cotton gloves or rubber gloves whenever possible when you handle metal items. This will prevent tarnish or damage to lacquer coatings often caused by fingerprints. Remove rings and other jewelry whenever you handle metal objects to prevent scratches.

Wash any and all metal vessels and appointments regularly with warm water and a gentle detergent. Rinse with clean water and dry with a soft cotton cloth. Never dry using paper towels. They are made from wood fibers. Wash hollow communion vessels without immersing in water. Water can seep into small openings and crevices causing corrosion over time.

Store silver or silver plate vessels in anti-tarnish protective bags.

Don't let wine rest in metal containers longer than necessary. The acid in the wine reacts with the metal surfaces to accelerate discoloring tarnish. Even worse, it can cause deep, irreparable pits in the interiors of chalices, flagons and cruets.

Brass and Bronze

Brass and bronze are alloys of copper, zinc and tin. Unless they are sealed with a protective lacquer or urethane coating, both are apt to tarnish over time ... airborne sulfur dioxide reacts with the copper alloy and forms dark unattractive finish that can range in color from green to black. Even if they are coated, small cracks or chips in the lacquer can admit moist acidic air; tarnish can form at that point and spread under the protective coating. For decades church brass and bronze ware appointments manufacturers have used and continue to use lacquer or urethane as a protective coating. Hot wax discolors and degrades the clear lacquer coating.

Cleaning Brass and Bronze appointments

Wash. Simply washing your articles as described in the General Recommendations will make them look much better. This is the only method recommended for lacquer and urethane coated items when the lacquer and urethane is in sound condition.

Polish. Brass polishes are compounds of fine abrasive particles in a paste that allows them to be spread on the article to be cleaned. They will scratch, degrade and seriously damage the appearance of lacquer and urethane coatings, and do not help with cleaning. Thus, do not use metal polish on articles that have lacquer or urethane coatings. If washing does not work but you are unsure about lacquer or urethane coating, try polish on a small inconspicuous part of the surface. If it is effective, you may assume your item is un-lacquered, un-urethaned. If you find that polish does not restore shine to your brass or bronze article, it is probably coated with damaged lacquer or urethane and tarnish has spread under the coating. These articles should now be professionally refinished or refurbished.

Silver

Silver is a precious metal element that appears in church metal ware in two forms: sterling silver and silver plate. Sterling is an alloy of at least 92.5% pure silver and a variety of other metals to improve durability. Silver plate is a very thin layer of pure silver electrically bonded to an underlying base metal, usually brass. Silver is a beautiful metal most often used to make or finish communion vessels, but it is very prone to tarnish.

Cleaning Silver Appointments

Wash. Wash with mild detergent and water after each use. Do not immerse hollow vessels and appointments where trapped moisture can cause unseen corrosion. Rinse and dry with a soft cotton cloth. Never use paper towels. Paper towels are made from wood fiber and, over time with continued use, will scratch the precious metal. If light discoloration (tarnish) forms, wipe silver surface with a silver polishing cloth. These are pieces of flannel infused with a light polish and do a great job.

Polish. Polish metal ware that you know is not lacquered, is not gold plate (gold-lined) or still looks discolored after washing. Tarnish is the thin brownish-black coating that forms on the surface of brass and silver when it reacts with airborne elements and chemical such as oxygen or sulfur dioxide. It is not harmful, but is unattractive. If tarnish has become quite dark, use silver polish such as Weiman Royal Silver Polish. When you have removed the tarnish, remove polish residue and buff with a clean cotton cloth. A cotton swab or toothpick will help in decorated areas of your appointments. If your article is still discolored after polishing it is likely that it is silver plate that has been worn through, exposing the base metal. These articles should be professionally refurbished.

Gold-Lined. If your article is gold-lined (interior gold plated), wash with mild detergent and water using a cotton cloth. Carefully rinse and dry with a cotton cloth. Never use paper towels to wash or dry your vessels, as they are made from wood fibers and will scratch the soft gold, and over time, with continued use, will ultimately remove the gold.

Gold

Gold is a precious metal that is so soft and costly in its pure 24 karat form that it is only used as an alloy, 14 or 18 karats, usually for jewelry. Whereas, 24 karat gold plate is reserved for sacred vessels, such as chalices, patens and ciboria. Gold plate, a very thin layer of gold electrically bonded to a base metal, such as brass or sterling, is frequently used to line the interiors of chalices, patens and ciboria, and to finish the outside of sacred vessels to provide a rich gold color.

Cleaning Gold Appointments

Wash. Wash with mild detergent and water after each use. Do not immerse hollow vessels and appointments. Trapped moisture will corrode the hollow inside portions of the vessels. Rinse and dry with a soft cotton cloth. Never use paper towels. Paper towels are made from wood fibers and will, over time and with continued use, will seriously scratch and gradually remove the soft gold exposing the base metal. Nasty corrosion follows.

Polish. Never use an abrasive cloth or polish on gold surfaces. They will remove excessive amounts of this precious metal exposing the base metal leading to tarnish corrosion. If your piece is still discolored after washing, the gold plate is undoubtedly worn through. These articles will have to be professionally refurbished.

Glass

Glass cruets and decanters for wine and water can in time become stained and cloudy looking. To remove stains on glass interiors, pour a small amount of raw rice, unpopped popcorn kernels or crushed ice in the vessel. Add white vinegar and water. Swirl around to allow rice, corn or ice to rub against glass surface. Allow solution to remain for a day or two, swirling occasionally. If stain persists, repeat this procedure with more aggressive abrasives: small stainless steel ball bearings and a denture cleaner, like Polident, with water. Remove abrasives and cleaning solution. When stains are removed, rinse with bleach, then wash with detergent, hot water and bottle brush, then rinse with hot water and dry.

Polished Aluminum

This lightweight metal is a remarkable value. It is easy to handle but may dent more easily than other metals. It will require occasional polishing with chrome and aluminum polish.

Silvertone and Brasstone Aluminum

The rich anodized finish never tarnishes or needs polishing. Because they resemble real silver and brass so closely, they will match other appointments. Wash in mild soap and water. Do not use strong detergents, abrasive cleaners or metal polish.

Stainless Steel

Use a high-quality, non-abrasive cleaner that is specially formulated for stainless steel, like Weiman Stainless Steel Cleaner & Polish. After applying the cleaner and polish, wipe in the direction of the natural metal grain to clean microscopic grooves where dust and dirt get trapped. Avoid abrasive cleaners, powders, scouring pads and brushes that may scratch and damage stainless steel.

Avoid using glass cleaners, all purpose cleaners and harsh chemicals like chlorine or bleach because they may leave streaks and damage or discolor the outer protective layer of the surface. Use microfiber cloth to clean stainless steel. Don't leave ordinary steel in contact with stainless steel under damp conditions because an adverse reaction between the metals may cause discoloration. After cleaning, buff with a soft, clean dry cloth to remove residue that may be left on the surface. Make sure to completely dry the surface after cleaning to prevent spotting and streaking. Cloth baby diapers, flannel fabric swatches, and old, clean tee shirts are great for cleaning stainless steel.

SPECIAL NOTE Never use a dishwasher to clean sacred vessels!

Removing Candle Wax

Hard Surfaces.

Never scrape the wax off using a hard metal object as you risk scratching or permanently damaging the surface. To remove large wax build-ups from large appointments, use a large zip-lock bag filled with ice cubes placing it on the wax buildup for about a half hour. This will harden the wax. Then with a small, hand-held automotive type plastic windshield ice scraper, carefully scrape off the larger portions of the wax. The remaining wax can be removed by melting it, using a hairdryer or heat gun, wiping it off using several layers of good quality paper towels. Repeat the process as needed. If the appointment is small enough, place it in a freezer for about a half an hour to harden the wax. Scrape off larger portions of wax using the automotive windshield ice scraper. Then use the heat gun, hairdryer process.

Soft Surfaces

Carpeting. Use a zip-lock bag filled with ice cubes placing it on the wax buildup for about a half hour. This will harden the wax. Scrape off as much wax using a stiff-blade putty knife trying not to damage the fabric. Then place several layers of good quality paper towels on the remaining wax. Place a warm to hot iron on paper towels to absorb the melting wax. Repeat process as needed.

Linens. Sandwich the linen between several layers of good quality paper towels. Place a warm to hot iron on paper towels to absorb the melting wax. Repeat process as needed.

Small metal articles that can fit into a kitchen oven, such as candle followers, or small candle sticks, place them in a 250 degree oven for about a half an hour or so. The melting wax will easily flow off the article. Be sure to place a large piece of tinfoil on the lower rack to catch the wax drippings.

Frequently overlooked, candlelighters—snuffers, when used in conjunction with wax candles, often have wax buildup inside the snuffer and in the wax-taper passageway. Carefully unscrew the snuffer. Some snuffers are threaded while others are held in place with a screw. Place the snuffer in a 250 degree oven. Place tinfoil on lower rack to catch melting wax. Use a hairdryer or heat gun to remove wax buildup in the wax-taper passageway. A brown-paper grocery bag serves well to catch and absorb melting wax.

Should wax removing become a frequently repetitive, undesirable chore, maybe it's time to consider purchasing oil-burning candles.

Proper Care of Altar Cloths and Linens

Whatever is set aside for use in the liturgy takes on a certain sacred character both by the blessing it receives and the sacred functions it fulfills. Thus, the cloths and sacred vessels used at the altar in the course of the Eucharistic celebration should be treated with the care and respect due to those things used in the preparation and celebration of the sacred mysteries.

Altar linens should be beautiful and finely made, though mere lavishness and ostentation must be avoided. Altar cloths, corporals, purificators, lavabo towels and palls should be made of absorbent cloth and never of paper.

Altar Cloths

Just as the altar is a sign for us of Christ the living stone, altar cloths are used out of reverence for the celebration of the memorial of the Lord and the banquet that gives us his body and blood. By their beauty and form they add to the dignity of the altar. Such cloths also serve a practical purpose, however, in absorbing whatever may be spilled of the consecrated wine or other sacramental elements. Thus the material of altar cloths should be absorbent and easily laundered.

While there may be several altar cloths in the form of drapings or even frontals, their shape, size, and decoration should be in keeping with the design of the altar. Unless the altar cloths have been stained with the consecrated wine, it is not necessary that they be cleaned in the sacarium. Care should be taken, however, that proper cleaning methods are used to preserve the beauty and life of the altar cloth. It is appropriate for those who care for sacred vessels, cloths and other instrumenta of the liturgy to accompany their work with prayer.

Corporals

Sacred vessels containing the consecrated elements of the Lord are always placed on top of a corporal. A corporal is spread on the altar in the course of the preparation of the gifts and the altar. When concelebrants receive the Eucharist from the altar, a corporal is placed beneath all chalices or patens. Finally, it is appropriate that a corporal be used on a side table, and placed beneath the sacred vessels which have been left to be cleaned after the communion service.

Because one of the purposes of the corporal is to contain whatever small particles of the consecrated host may be left at the conclusion of the service, care should be taken that the transferal of consecrated hosts between sacred vessels should always be done over a corporal. The corporal should be white in color and of sufficient dimensions so that at least the main chalice and paten may be placed upon it completely. When necessary, more than one corporal may be used. The material of corporals should be absorbent and easily laundered.

The Corporal should never be left on the altar after the communion service. It should be opened and placed on the altar just prior to the service and then carefully folded following the service so whatever small particles of the consecrated host that may remain can be contained. These particles should be emptied into the sacarium between Eucharistic celebrations.

When corporals are cleansed they should first be rinsed in a sacarium and only afterwards washed with laundry soaps in the customary manner. Every church or chapel should be equipped with a sacarium. However, if no sacarium is present, the linens should be rinsed or hand-washed in a basin before being washed in the laundry. The water in the basin should then be reverently poured into the ground at an appropriate spot on the church property.

Corporals should be ironed in such a way that their distinctive manner of folding helps to contain whatever small particles of the consecrated host may remain at the conclusion of the Eucharistic celebration.

Purificators

Purificators are customarily brought to the altar with chalices and are used to wipe the consecrated wine from the lip of the chalice and to cleanse sacred vessels. They should be white in color. Whenever the consecrated wine is distributed from the chalice or even accidentally spilled, purificators should be used to absorb the spill. The material of purificators should be absorbent and easily laundered. The purificator should never be made of paper or any other disposable material.

Because of their function, purificators regularly become stained with the consecrated wine. It is, therefore, essential that they should first be cleansed in a sacarium and only afterwards washed with laundry soaps in the customary manner. Purificators should be ironed in such a way that they may be easily used for the wiping of the lip of the chalice.

Other Cloths

Other cloths may also be used at communion services. A pall may be used to cover the chalice in order to protect the consecrated wine from insects or other foreign objects. In order that palls may be kept immaculately clean they should be made with removable covers of a worthy material which may be easily washed in the sacarium and then laundered. Chalice veils either of the color of the day, or white may be fittingly used to cover the chalice before it is prepared and after it has been cleansed.

Disposal of Worn Altar Cloths and Linens

Consistent with the disposal of all things blessed for use in the liturgy, it is appropriate that altar linens, which show signs of wear and can no longer be used, should normally be disposed of either by burial on church property or burning.

Stewardship of Altar Cloths and Linens.

Caring for and extending the life of altar cloths and linens (maintenance)

How to remove stains. (Important to remove stains as soon as possible):

Grease Stains (It is best to use a dry process):

- Use talcum powder, pharmaceutical talc, white tailor's chalk, or Fuller's Earth.
- Use white blotting paper, place paper down first, sprinkle with powder, put fabric next powder, next sprinkle the fabric with small amount of powder and top with white blotting paper. Let stand for several hours, then iron. Wash after this process.

Wine and fruit stains

- Rub the stain with ice cubes and blot as quickly as possible.
- Spot clean with Orvus Quilt Soap and distilled water solution, then wash item.
- Rub the stain with a damp piece of Ivory soap and allow to stand for several hours. Rinse well and wash.
- Rinse a red wine stain with white wine.

Tea and coffee stains

- Wash in soap and water or use Shout, Oxiclean, or Arm and Hammer.

Ink

- Soak the stain in warm milk or lemon juice and salt.

Wax

- Iron with fabric sandwiched between two layers of white blotting paper.

Stubborn Stains (age spots and rust)

- Soak in solution of white toothpaste and distilled water. Rub in with soft brush. Allow to dry and rinse. Reapply if needed. Some stains need many applications to work.

Lipstick

- Use the grease process or Zout.

Clorox

- Do not use. This breaks down and weakens the fibers in the fabric.

General Laundry

White linens

- Hand wash in cool or room temperature water using mild soap (Ivory or lanolin). If heavily soiled, use Orvus Quilt Soap or Oxiclean and distilled water.

Silk

- Dry clean or use vinegar and distilled water. If using vinegar and distilled water, test for color fasting first.

Rinsing

- If white vinegar is added to the rinse water it will give sheen to embroidery.

Drying

- Flat dry whenever possible. Hang item if it is too large. Do not put in dryer because of heat.

Starching

- Do not starch ecclesiastical items.

Ironing

- Iron from the center out, upside down, being careful around corners of embroidery. Do not steam in order to avoid rust spots. Use covered plywood board for ironing of large altar cloths. Iron as little as possible in order to extend the life of fabrics and linens.