



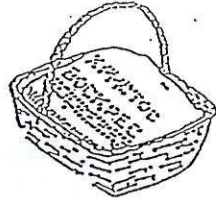
April 15, 2017 - Holy Saturday 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm and 4:00 pm - Blessing of Easter Food in the Parish Centre.



HOW TO PREPARE AN EASTER BASKET

The Foods to Fill Your Basket With and Their Meanings

First you start with a straw basket, it doesn't have to be elaborate. Then you fill it with traditional food and cover it with a white embroidered cloth. It is customary to have a blessed candle in it to be lit at the blessing.



COVER - the embroidered cover reminds us of Christ's shroud (white linen) and of our Baptismal robe (kryszma). Being cleansed with the Baptismal waters, we celebrate the joy of New life by putting on the kryszma.

CANDLE - the candle, made of beeswax, is placed in the basket and lit during the blessing celebration. It is symbolic of Christ "the light of the world" who brought us the glorious good news of new life.

PASCHA . . . "CHRIST IS RISEN" - The large round loaf of bread, made of white flour, eggs, milk and raisins, symbolizes our Lord Himself, who is the Living Bread and who has come down from heaven to give eternal life in the Eucharist. Just as bread is the 'staff of life', Christ is our spiritual nourishment for eternal life. The word "Pascha" means "passover" - for Christ, by His Resurrection, passed over from death to life.



BABKA . . . "BLESSED MOTHER" - The Babka baked in a tall, cylindrical, sweet bread enriched with raisins, butter, eggs. Saffron is added for colouring. The Babka symbolizes the joy of the Blessed Mother as the news of Christ's Resurrection.

HORSERADISH . . . "SUFFERING" - The horseradish represents to us the Passion and Death of Christ caused by sin.



BEETS . . . "STAIN OF SIN" - The red stain of beets symbolizes the stain on our souls caused by sin. It reminds us of the bitterness of sin and the difficulties which we must undergo throughout our earthly life.

CHEESE . . . "PURITY & GOODNESS" - Cream Cheese or Cottage Cheese - symbolizes by its white colour and bland taste the purity & goodness of the soul without sin. (opposite of beet-red)

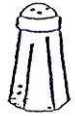


HARD-BOILED EGGS . . . "NEW LIFE" - The egg hard boiled and unshelled represents the new life of the glorious Christ, is offered by the head of the household to family members on Easter morning as a sign that we are partakers of the new life of the Risen Jesus Christ.

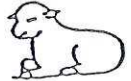
PYSANKY . . . "RESURRECTION" - The emergence of new life. The eggs are coloured because tradition says that Mary, the Mother of Jesus, wanted to take something to Pilate so he would not let Jesus be crucified. All she had were some eggs and when Mary saw that Jesus was condemned, she began to weep and her tears dyed the eggs into many different colours. After the Lord's Resurrection, these eggs were a sign of joy, reminding Mary that her Son lives forever.



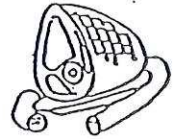
SALT . . . "TRUTH" & "GOD'S GRACE" - symbolizes the truth of the message of Christ. Just as salt preserves food, so the teachings of Christ preserves our eternal life.



BUTTER . . . "BURIAL OINTMENT" - The butter in the form of a lamb or a cross represents the body of Christ which was anointed with spices for burial. The butter also represents the Lamb of God who was offered on the altar of the Cross for the life of the world.



MEAT . . . "JOYFUL CELEBRATION" - the meat products symbolizes the sacrificial animals of the Old Testament, foreshadowing the true sacrifice of our Saviour who became for us the Lamb of God, taking away the sins of the world. Also meat products symbolizes the fatted calf prepared for the Prodigal Son (representing fallen mankind). The traditional meats in the Easter Baskets are Ham (shynka) Sausage (kobassa) and some Bacon (Solonyna) -



CHOCOLATE AND CANDY - Children also share in the joy of the Resurrection. The Church takes ordinary food and blesses it as an aid in making us holy. God's blessing changes us from children of natural descent into sons and daughter of the Kingdom of God.

You will enjoy preparing the Easter Basket and all are encouraged to do so. The Children are especially encouraged to participate. The basket should be brought to the Church on Saturday to be blessed.

It should be noted that if you have fasted from these foods during the Great Fast, especially during Holy Week, nothing tastes better than this food on Easter morning.

NOTE: Blessed food which is not eaten should not be thrown away with rest of your garbage. It should either be buried (in the garden) or burned.

