

# Traditional Easter Basket Blessing



**PASCHA** - The Easter Bread (Pron. Pa-ska.) A sweet yeast bread rich in eggs, butter, etc. Symbolic of Christ Himself who is our True Bread. Usually round loaf baked with a golden crust decorated with a symbol indicative of Christ. Sometimes a cross (+) of dough is placed on top encircled by a plait given it a crowned effect or Greek

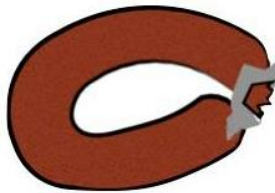


**CHEESE** - (Rusyn: Hrudka or Sirec) A custard type cheese shaped into a ball having a rather bland but sweet taste indicative of the moderation that Christians should have in all things. Also creamed cheese is placed in a small dish and both are decorated with symbols (see Pascha) out of cloves or pepper balls.

**HAM** - (Rusyn: Šunka - pron. shoon-ka.) The Flesh meat popular with the Slavs as the main dish because of its richness and symbolic of the great joy and abundance of Easter. Some may prefer Lamb or Veal. This is usually well roasted or cooked as well as other meats so the festivity of the day will not be burdened with preparation and all may enjoy the Feast.

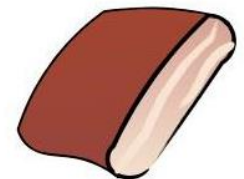


**BUTTER** - (Rusyn: Maslo pron. ma-slo.) This favorite dairy product is often shaped into a figure of a Lamb or small cross and decorated as the cheese. This reminds us of the goodness of Christ that we should have toward all things.

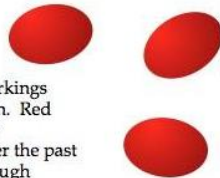


**SAUSAGE** (Rusyn: Kolbasi-pron. kol-bus-i.) A spicy, garlic sausage of pork products indicative of God's flavor and generosity.

**BACON** - (Rusyn: Slanina pron. sla-ni-na) A piece of uncooked bacon cured with spices. Symbolic of the overabundance of God's mercy to us.



**EGGS** (Rusyn: Pisanki pron. pi-sun-ki) Hardboiled eggs brightly decorated with symbols and markings made with beeswax, indicative of new life and resurrection. Red eggs are also traditional date back to a story with St. Mary Magdalene. Having been dyed with onion skins saved over the past year, red shows the color of life and victory that came through Christ's blood.



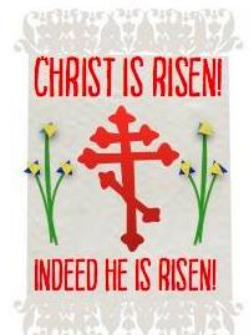
**SALT** - (Rusyn: Sol' pron. sol') A condiment necessary for flavor reminding the Christian of his duty to others.



**HORSERADISH** (Rusyn: Chrin pron. khrin) Horseradish mixed with grated red beets (optional) symbolizes the Passion of Christ still in our minds but sweetened with some sugar because of the Resurrection. A bitter-sweet red colored mixture reminds us of the sufferings of Christ.

These articles are placed in a wicker basket. A decorated candle is placed inside and is lit at the time of the blessing. A linen cover usually embroidered with a picture of the Risen Christ or symbol with the words "Christ is Risen" is placed over the food when brought to the Church.

In some places a large Easter Bread (Pascha) is made and brought separately in a large linen cloth. If the origin of the people was from a wine growing area, a sweet wine may be brought



Please join us for the blessing on Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am in the Parish Hall

# Holy Week Celebrations



## Palm Sunday of our Lord's Passion

Today, we begin the holiest of weeks by first calling to mind Jesus' triumphant entrance into the holy city of Jerusalem with the blessing of palms, and then recounting His passion and death to occur later in the week. Please consider your faithful participation in the coming celebrations throughout Holy Week.

## Holy Thursday – The Mass of the Lord's Supper

Thursday, March 28, 2024 – 7:00pm

This evening Mass brings to a close the Lenten season and begins the celebration of the Sacred Triduum. Through Word, Sacrament and the Washing of Feet, we are invited to reflect on the gift of the Eucharist and of ministry in the Church. In the stripping of the Altar, we prepare to enter into the emptiness of the day to come. Adoration will follow until **10:00pm**, concluding the day with Night Prayer.



## Good Friday – The Passion of the Lord

Friday, March 29, 2024 – 7:00pm

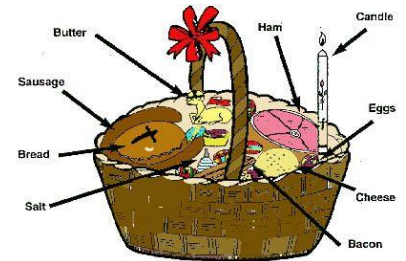


During this celebration, we experience the passion and death of our Lord, we invoke a series of special prayers for the world, we venerate the Holy Cross, and we continue to be nourished with the Body of Christ.

## Blessing of Easter Food

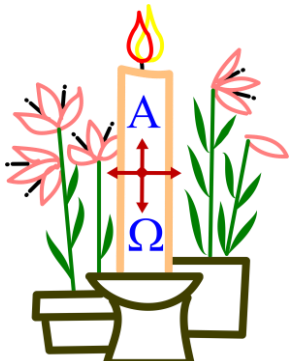
Saturday – March 30, 2024 – 10:00am

We will gather in the **Parish Hall** for the blessing of Easter Foods. Please consider bringing various foods that will grace your Easter table, seeking God's blessings on this abundance of physical and spiritual nourishment.



## The Great Easter Vigil

Saturday, March 30, 2024 – **8:00pm**



In the Great Easter Vigil, we move both physically and spiritually from darkness into a new light. We recall moments in salvation history, we proclaim the Resurrection of our Lord, and welcome those who have prepared to be one with us in the Sacramental life of the Church.

## Easter Sunday – The Resurrection of the Lord

Sunday, March 31, 2024 – 9:00am & 11:30am Masses

At these Masses marking the first day of Easter joy, we arrive at the tomb with Mary of Magdala, Peter and John, to bear witness to the Resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Together, we begin a season of new life, guiding us in a fifty-day journey to the birth of the Church at Pentecost on May 19<sup>th</sup>

