



THE BLESSED EASTER BASKET

This blessed meal breaks the Lenten fast and brings the joy of Easter into the home. Therefore, it is traditionally shared on Easter Sunday after the Morning Mass.

Blessing of the Breads and Holiday Baked Goods

The blessing addresses the Bread of Life who died and rose for the life of the world, invoking Him to bless the bread and holiday baked goods in memory of the Bread which is offered at the Priest's hands which becomes His Body. Amen.

Blessing of the Meats and Sausages

The blessing addresses the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world. The Lamb is invoked and asked to bless the meats and sausages, which will become the holiday meal in memory of the Paschal Lamb, as He gave to the Apostles at the Last Supper. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing of the Eggs

The blessing addresses Christ, our Life and Resurrection. It asks Him to bless the eggs, the sign of new life; asks Him to remember our family, those near as well as guests, especially those who wait in the hope of being with Him. We wait to accompany Him to His Father's house, where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

EASTER BASKET:

Bread - traditionally a round loaf marked with a cross symbolizes Jesus the Bread of life come down from heaven (Jn 6:35), the breaking of which extends the Eucharist into the home.

Paschal Lamb - made of cake, butter, or sugar with a red and white banner proclaim Christ as the final Victor over death and evil.(Rv 12: 11).

Smoked Meats - all meats, sausages, and, ham symbolize the Paschal sacrifice of the new covenant. Jesus frees us from sin and eternal death bringing Exodus liberation to its final completion.

Easter eggs - The colored egg shell represents Christ's tomb. It is often dyed in onion skins for a rich earth tone. The yolk is reminiscent of the radiant sun. Written eggs or pisanki proclaim the glory of the Resurrection.

Horseradish and Vinegar - The bitter herbs of Passover were fulfilled as Jesus drank sour wine while hanging on the cross. Traditionally, sweets are eaten only after tasting some horseradish as a reminder that Christ's bitter suffering opened the door to never-ending jubilation.

Wine - The Psalms extol the proper use of wine which gladdens the heart (Ps 104:16&). For the baptized, wine points to the fullness of joy at the Lord's Table in church.

Salt - You are the salt of the earth (Mt 5:13). The faith, hope and love of Jesus' followers give zest and meaning to daily life-preserving all that is good.

Babka, Placki, and Sweets - **Children make Lenten promises often by giving up candy. All Easter candy points to the sweetness of the heavenly kingdom.** Yeast cakes iced with sugar allow all to taste and see the goodness of the Lord (Ps 34:9). Cakes rising in the oven illustrate the warm spring sunrise and, most especially, Jesus' rising from the tomb.

The Pussy Willow - is the Polish "palm" whose catkins first announce Spring's returning sunshine. A Polish Easter hymn states that at His resurrection Christ blossomed forth as a wondrous flower (Wesoły nam dzień dziś nastał).

Spring Greens - Sprigs of parsley, boxwood, myrtle, periwinkle, or even store-bought grass symbolize the new life of the eternal Spring won through Christ's resurrection.

Second Basket:

Families share the bounty of their Easter Table with the needy and homeless in exchange for their prayers. Don't forget to bring a special Easter candy basket for homeless kids along with your extra holiday food basket.

