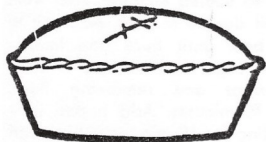
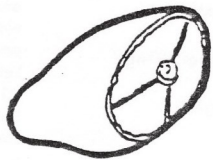


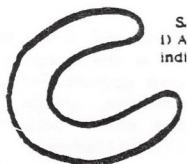
Catechesis of the Easter Basket



PASCHA - The Easter Bread (pronounced "Paska.") A sweet, yeast bread rich in eggs, butter, etc. Symbolic of Christ Himself, Who is our "True Bread." Usually a 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, giving it a crowned effect; or the Greek abbreviations for the name of Christ, IC XC (Jesus Christ), may be used. The letters XB are an abbreviation for "Christ is Risen" in Old Slavonic or Ukrainian.



HAM (Slav, "shynka") - the flesh meat popular with the Slavs as the main dish for Holy Pascha, because of its richness and symbolic of the great joy and abundance of Easter. Some may prefer lamb or veal. These meats are usually well roasted or cooked ahead of time so that the festivity of the day will not be burden anyone with food preparation, and that all may be free to enjoy the Feast.



SAUSAGE (Kobassa). A spicy, sausage made of pork products and garlic; indicative of God's favour and generosity.



EGGS (Pysanky or Krashanky). Pysanky are eggs brightly decorated with symbols and designs made with beeswax, indicative of new life and resurrection. Krashanky are hard boiled eggs that are dyed with one bright colour, and eaten during the festive meal.

Continued ...





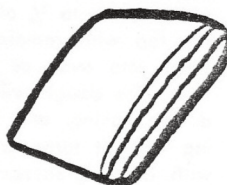
HORSERADISH (in Ukrainian, “khrin.”) Horseradish alone, and/or mixed with grated red beets. The white horseradish alone is symbolic of the resurrection. The horseradish mixed with grated red beets is symbolic of the Passion of Christ still in our minds, yet sweetened with some sugar because of the Resurrection. The bitter-sweet red coloured mixture reminds us of the sufferings Christ endured for us.



CHEESE (“Hrudka” or “Syretz.”) A custard-type cheese shaped into a ball, with a slight sweet taste indicative of the moderation that Christians should have in all things. Also, creamed cheese is placed in a small dish. Both cheeses are decorated with symbols (IC XC, or XB, or the cross) using cloves or pepper balls.



BUTTER (in Ukrainian, “Maslo.”) This favourite dairy product is often shaped into a figure of a Lamb, or small cross. If set into a container, it is decorated in the same way as the cheese, using cloves or pepper balls.



BACON (in Ukrainian, “solonyna.”) A piece of uncooked bacon cured with spices. Symbolic of the super-abundance of God’s mercy and loving-kindness to us. It is also a reminder that with the New Testament, God has abolished the Old Testament dietary laws and has pronounced all foods clean for human enjoyment.



SALT (in Ukrainian, “sil.”) A condiment which gives flavour and preserves food. It is a reminder of Christ’s words, “You are the salt of the earth.” As Christians, we are called to be the “salt of the earth,” to give “flavour” and meaning to human life on earth by living according to the Gospel; and thus, to preserve human life from moral corruption and decay.

OTHER - if the origin of the people was a wine growing area, a sweet wine was also included in the basket for the blessing.



THE EMBROIDERED PASCHAL CLOTH. The articles mentioned above are placed in a wicker basket and a ribbon or bow is tied to the handle. A decorated candle is placed in the basket and is lit at the time of blessing. A linen cover, usually embroidered with an image of the risen Christ, the cross or another appropriate symbol, together with the words “Christ is Risen - Truly He is Risen,” is placed over the food when brought to Church. Before the blessing, the cover is removed, set on the ground or table, and the basket is placed upon the cloth for the blessing.

The above is a description of **TRADITIONAL EASTER FOODS** included in an Easter Basket in Central and Eastern Europe. **However, you may substitute Traditional Easter Foods with foods common to your own country of origin.** Almost every nationality has its own type of sausage or prepared meat. The important thing is that after the Great Fast, the first food you eat should be blessed food, which should be eaten and enjoyed together as a family on **EASTER SUNDAY**, after church services. Another popular custom is to let children have (or make up themselves) their own baskets, to instill in them the tradition for the future. These may be filled with eggs, chocolates, toys, etc.

BLESSING OF FOODS FOR THE FEAST OF PASCHA



BLESSING OF EASTER FOODS

The blessing of Easter foods normally takes place outdoors on Holy Pascha, after the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. The priest, fully vested, begins:

Blessing

PRIEST: Glory to the holy, consubstantial, life-giving and undivided Trinity, always, now and for ever and ever.

ALL: **Amen.**

Paschal Troparion

PRIEST: Christ is risen from the dead,* trampling death by death,* and to those in the tombs* giving life.

ALL: **Christ is risen from the dead,* trampling death by death,* and to those in the tombs,* giving life.**

PRIEST: Christ is risen from the dead,* trampling death by death.

ALL: **And to those in the tombs,* giving life.**

Blessing of Bread

DEACON: Let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRIEST: O Holy Master, Father almighty, pre-eternal God: be pleased to sanctify this bread by Your holy and spiritual blessing, so that it might be unto salvation of soul as well as bodily health for all who eat of it. May it also protect against all illness and every attack of the enemy. Through the mercy and compassion of Your only-begotten Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, with Whom You are blessed, together with Your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and always and for ever and ever.

ALL: **Amen.**



БЛАГОСЛОВЕННЯ ПАСОК

Благословення пасок й інших страв буває звичайно по Святій Літургії. Ієрей, убраний в усі ризи, починає:

Благословення

ІЄРЕЙ: Слава святих, одноістотній, животворній і нероздільній Тройці завжди, нині і повсякчас, і на віки вічні.

ВСІ: **Амінь.**

Тропар Пасхи

ІЄРЕЙ: Христос воскрес із мертвих,* смертю смерть подолав,* і тим, що в гробах,* життя дарував.

ВСІ: **Христос воскрес із мертвих,* смертю смерть подолав,* і тим, що в гробах,* життя дарував.**

ІЄРЕЙ: Христос воскрес із мертвих,* смертю смерть подолав.

ВСІ: **І тим, що в гробах,* життя дарував.**

Благословення пасок

ДІЯКОН: Господеві, помолімся.

ВСІ: **Господи, помилуй.**

ІЄРЕЙ: Владико святий, Отче вседержителю, предвічний Боже! Благослови й освяти † Твоїм духовним благословенням хліб цей, щоб був він усім, хто його споживає, на спасіння душі, здоров'я тіла і захист проти всіх недуг і всякого ворожого підступу, через Господа нашого Ісуса Христа, що зійшов із неба, дає життя і спасіння світові, що з Тобою живе і царює в одності Святого Духа, нині і повсякчас, і на віки вічні.

ВСІ: **Амінь.**

Continued ...

Blessing of Meat

DEACON: Let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: **Lord, have mercy.**

ІСРЕЙ: O Lord Jesus Christ our God, look upon these various meats, and sanctify them as You sanctified the ram, which Abraham, the faithful one, brought to You, and the lamb which was offered to You by Abel as a total offering of his fruits. Sanctify them also as You sanctified the fatted calf, which You ordered to be slain for Your prodigal son when he returned to You, so that just as he was made worthy to enjoy Your goodness, we too might delight in these foods that You have hallowed and blessed to nourish us all. For You are the true Nourishment and Bestower of good things, and we render glory to You, with Your Father Who is without beginning, and Your all-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and alway and for ever and ever.

ALL: **Amen.**

Blessing of Cheese and Eggs

DEACON: Let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: **Lord, have mercy.**

ІСРЕЙ: O Master, Lord our God, Creator and Builder of all things: bless these milk products along with these eggs, and preserve us in Your goodness, so that partaking of them we may be filled with Your gifts, which You, because of Your unspeakable goodness, bestow on us so ungrudgingly. For Yours is the dominion, and Yours the kingdom, the power, and the glory, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever and ever.

ALL: **Amen.**

Then the priest sprinkles the foods with holy water, while saying:

PRIEST: These foods are blessed and sanctified by the sprinkling of this holy water and the grace of the Holy Spirit, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Paschal Troparion

ALL: **Christ is risen from the dead,* trampling death by death,* and to those in the tombs,* giving life. (We repeat as many times as necessary).**

Dismissal

PRIEST: †Glory be to You, O Christ God, our hope, glory be to You!

ALL: †**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,* now and for ever and ever. Amen.* Lord, have mercy. (3)* Give the blessing!**

PRIEST: Christ our true God, (risen from the dead, trampling death by death, and to those in the tombs giving life), through the prayers of His immaculate Mother; of the holy, glorious and all-praiseworthy apostles and of all the saints, will have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

ALL: **Amen.**

Благословення агня та м'яса

ДІАКОН: Господеві, помолімся.

ВСІ: **Господи, помилуй.**

ІСРЕЙ: Споглянь, Господи Ісусе Христе Боже наш, на цього агня та на всі інші м'ясні страви, і їх благослови † й освяти, як Ти благословив і освятив агня, що його привів тобі вірний Авраам, і агня, що його приніс тобі Авель на жертву від усіх плодів, і вгодоване теля, що його Ти звелів заколоти блудному і наверненому синові. І як той сподобився насолодитися Твоєї ласки, так і всі ми, споживаючи ці благословенні й освячені страви, приймемо твоє благословення в здоров'ї, заради Твого святого хреста і на третій день воскресіння з мертвих. Бо Ти правдива Пожива й Податель усіх благ, і все благословляєш та освячуєш, Христе Боже наш, і тобі славу віддаємо, з безначальним Твоїм Отцем, і з пресвятим, добрим і животворним Твоїм Духом, нині і повсякчас, і на віки вічні.

ВСІ: **Амінь.**

Благословення молочних страв та яєць

ДІАКОН: Господеві, помолімся.

ВСІ: **Господи, помилуй.**

ІСРЕЙ: Владико, Господи, Боже наш, Сотворителю і Творче всього! Благослови † сир, масло і яйця та й інші страви, і збережи нас у Своїй благоді, щоб насолоджуючись цих Твоїх щедро поданих дарів, ми сповнилися також невимовної Твоєї доброти, задля пресвітлого на третій день воскресіння з мертвих Господа нашого Ісуса Христа. Бо Твоя є влада: Отця, і Сина, і Святого Духа, нині і повсякчас, і на віки вічні.

ВСІ: **Амінь.**

Тоді ісрей кропить страви освяченою водою, промовляючи:

ІСРЕЙ: Благословляються й освячуються всі ці страви окропленням цієї освяченої води: в ім'я Отця, і Сина, і Святого Духа. Амінь.

Тропар Пасхи

ВСІ: **Христос воскрес із мертвих,* смертю смерть подолав,* і тим, що в гробах,* життя дарував. (Повторюємо, аж поки не закінчиться благословення)**

Віднучь

ІСРЕЙ: Слава тобі, Христе Боже, надія наша, слава тобі.

ВСІ: †**Слава Отцю, і Сину, і Святому Духові,* і нині, і повсякчас, і на віки вічні. Амінь.* Господи, помилуй. (3) * Благослови.**

ІСРЕЙ: Христос, істинний Бог наш, (що воскрес із мертвих, смертю смерть подолав, і тим, що в гробах, життя дарував), молитвами пречистої Своєї Матері, святих, славних і всехвальних апостолів, і всіх святих, помилує і спасе нас, як благий і чоловіколюбець.

ВСІ: **Амінь.**

