

A POLISH EASTER BASKET

PASCAL LAMB – Made of Cake, butter or sugar with a red and white banner, the Lamb proclaims Christ as final victor over death and evil. (Rv 12:11)

SMOKED MEATS – Kielbasa and ham symbolize the sacrifice of the new covenant. Jesus frees us from sin and eternal death bringing exodus liberation to its final completion. Rings of sausage suggest family unity.

EGGS- The colored eggshell represents Christ's tomb. It is often dyed in onion skin for a rich earth tone. Written eggs or pisanki proclaim the glory of the resurrection.

HORSERADISH – A symbol of the bitterness of Christ's suffering. Traditionally, sweets are eaten only after tasting some horseradish as a reminder that Christ's bitter suffering opened the door to never-ending jubilation

VINEGAR – In memory of the gall given to Christ on the cross.

WINE – A reminder of the blood of sacrifice. Psalm 104:16 extols the proposed use of wine which gladdens the heart. For the baptized, wine points to the fullness of joy at the Eucharistic Table.

SALT – As a result of baptism, 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.

BREAD, BABKA, PLACKI AND SWEETS – symbolizes the bread of the Eucharist. Children make Lenten promises often by giving up candy. All Easter candy denotes the sweetness of the heavenly kingdom. Yeast cakes iced with sugar allow all to taste 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 – As a Polish "palm", pussy willow blooms first announce Spring's return. A Polish Easter hymn states that at His resurrection Christ blossomed forth as a wondrous flower.

SPRING GREENS – Sprigs of parsley, boxwood, myrtle, periwinkle or even store-bought grass stand for the new life of eternal Spring won through Christ's resurrection. As the new greenery emerges from the "death" of winter, so Christ rose from the tomb. Spring flowers may also be used.

A snowy white cloth or doily is used to cover the basket when it is brought to church on Holy Saturday. Embroidered cloths can also be used.

COMPLIMENTS OF ST ADALBERT BASILICA

212 Stanislaus, Buffalo, NY

BLESSING OF EASTER BASKETS

HOLY SATURDAY APRIL 11, 2009

1:00 PM & 2:00 PM