Parochial Administrator:
Father Michael Sidun

March 2021

St. Thomas the Apostle Byzantine Catholic Church

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!
!Gloria a Jesucristo! !Gloria Por Siempre!
Slava Isusu Christu! Slava Na Viki!

Liturgical Schedule

*Saturday Vigil
5pm – Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy

*Sunday
10am – Divine Liturgy

*Weekday Divine Liturgy
Check bulletin

Holy Mystery of Repentance (Confession)

*Saturdays: 4:00-4:30pm
*Sundays: 9:00-9:30am
(Also available by appointment)

Other Information

Church Address
19 West Bruce Avenue
Gilbert, AZ 85233

Mailing Address
P.O. Box 667
Gilbert, AZ 85299-0667

Parish phone: 480-497-6726
- press 1 for the parish office
- press 2 for a sacramental emergency

Website: www.stabcc.org
Email: saint.thomas.pastor@gmail.com

Office Hours – (call ahead to confirm as the priest is often out of the office for sick calls or other parish obligations)
Tuesday-Friday: 10:00am-4:00pm



Candles were made & blessed at St. Thomas for the Feast of the Encounter of our Lord with Simeon

Welcome! St. Thomas Byzantine Catholic Church is a vibrant parish community which seeks to live the liturgical year in solemnity and celebration. Our church follows the ancient Eastern traditions, while remaining in union with the Pope of Rome. The Byzantine Catholic Church is uniquely beautiful– enhanced by the story of the life of Christ and the saints in icons. Our liturgy is rich in tradition and based in scripture. As a bonus, almost all liturgical prayers are chanted. We welcome visitors who wish to share in our sacred worship services.

CONFESSIONS: Check bulletin for weekly times as well as special times before feast days. Also available by appointment.
ANOINTING OF THE SICK: Before hospitalization, after Holy Services in church. For emergencies, please call the Parish Office immediately.
BAPTISM/CHRISMATION/EUCHARIST: Must be arranged at least three months in advance.
CROWNING IN MARRIAGE: Must be arranged at least six months in advance.



Saturday Morning, March 6
3rd All Souls Saturday Commemoration of the Faithful Departed
Divine Liturgy **9:00 AM**
Intention: †All Souls
Hebrews 10:32-38; Mark 2:14-17

Saturday Evening, March 6
CONFESSIONS **4:00-4:30 PM**
Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy **5:00 PM**
Intention: +Helen Ferencz (Karyn Marchant)



SUNDAY, March 7, Tone 7
3rd Sunday of the Great Fast
Veneration of the Cross
CONFESSIONS **9:00-9:30 AM**
Third Hour **9:40 AM**
Divine Liturgy **10:00 AM**
Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas
Hebrews: 4:14-5:6; Mark 8:34-9:1

Wednesday, March 10 — Mid-Lent
Condratus & Others—Martyrs
CONFESSIONS **6:00-6:30 PM**
Presanctified Gifts Divine Liturgy **7:00 PM**
Intention: Doreene Stacy (Little family)

Friday, March 12
Theophane Venerable Confessor
CONFESSIONS **6:00-6:30 PM**
Presanctified Gifts Divine Liturgy **7:00 PM**
Intention: The Peace Family (Beth & Brian Matthysse)



Saturday Morning, March 13
4th All Souls Saturday Commemoration of the Faithful Departed
Divine Liturgy **9:00 AM**
Intention: †All Souls
Hebrews 6:9-12; Mark 7:31-37

Saturday Evening, March 13
CONFESSIONS **3:00-3:30 PM**
Full Vespers **4:00-4:50PM**
Divine Liturgy **5:00 PM**
Intention: Fr. Michael & Pani Betty Kirila (Bullock family)



SUNDAY, March 14, Tone 8
4th Sunday of the Great Fast
St. John Climacus
CONFESSIONS **9:00-9:30 AM**
Third Hour **9:40 AM**
Divine Liturgy **10:00 AM**
Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas
Hebrews: 6:13-20; Mark 9:17-31

St. John Climacus composed the following prayer to obtain the gift of charity: "My God, I pretend to nothing upon this earth, except to be so firmly united to you by prayer that to be separated from you may be impossible; let others desire riches and glory; for my part, I desire but one thing, and that is, to be inseparably united to you, and to place in you alone all my hopes of happiness and repose."

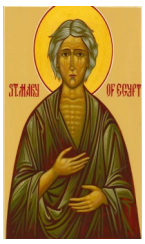
Wednesday, March 17
Alexis, Man of God Venerable
CONFESSIONS **6:00-6:30 PM**
Presanctified Gifts Divine Liturgy **7:00 PM**
Intention: Simon Buchman (Little family)

Thursday, March 18
Great Canon of Our Holy Father Andrew of Crete with 250 prostrations **6:00 PM**

Friday, March 19
Chrysanthus & Daria Martyrs
CONFESSIONS **6:00-6:30 PM**
Presanctified Gifts Divine Liturgy **7:00 PM**
Intention: +Gail Person (Doreene Stacy)

Saturday Morning, March 20
Akathistos Saturday
Akathist to the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary **9:00 AM**

Saturday Evening, March 20
CONFESSIONS **4:00-4:30 PM**
Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy **5:00 PM**
Intention: +Andria Kowalczyk (Kowalczyk family)



SUNDAY, March 21, Tone 1
5th Sunday of the Great Fast
St. Mary of Egypt
CONFESSIONS **9:00-9:30 AM**
Third Hour **9:40 AM**
Divine Liturgy **10:00 AM**
Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas
Hebrews: 9:11-14; Mark 10:32-45

St. Mary of Egypt: Prayer of Repentance
Icon of St. Mary of Egypt "O Lady, Mother of God, who gave birth in the flesh to God the Word, I know, O how well I know, that it is no honour or praise to thee when one so impure and depraved as I look up to thy icon, O ever-virgin, who didst keep thy body and soul in purity. Rightly do I inspire hatred and disgust before thy virginal purity. But I have heard that God Who was born of thee became man on purpose to call sinners to repentance. Then help me, for I have no other help. Order the entrance of the church to be opened to me. Allow me to see the venerable Tree on which He Who was born of thee suffered in the flesh and on which He shed His holy Blood for the redemption of sinners and for me, unworthy as I am. Be my faithful witness before thy son that I will never again defile my body by the impurity of fornication, but as soon as I have seen the Tree of the Cross I will renounce the world and its temptations and will go wherever thou wilt lead me."



We thank Mignon Thurow for teaching us how to made **Koliva**



Eastern Catholic Clergy Association of Arizona



Rev. Diodoro Mendoza, Rev. Joseph Hutsko, Rev. Peter Boutros, **Bishop John Pazak and Bishop Venedykt Aleksiychuk**, Rev. Mykhaylo Sidun, Rev. Hugo Soutus and Deacon James Danovich



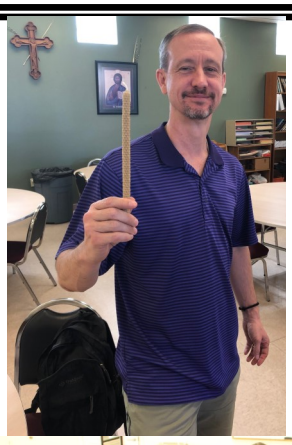


At St. Thomas Church, Gilbert:
Pani Luba and Rev. Mykhaylo Sidun, **Bishop Venedykt Aleksiychuk,** Rev. Hugo Soutus and Pani Yolanda





At St. Thomas Church, candles were made and blessed for the Feast of the Encounter of our Lord with Simeon















REMARKS

1. Mondays to Fridays in the Great Fast are alliturgical (without Divine Liturgy) days. The Presanctified Divine Liturgy is celebrated on Wednesday and Friday.
3.5.10.12.17.19.24.26.31. Simple abstinence from meat
7.14.21. The Divine Liturgy of St. Basil is celebrated.
7. Veneration of the Holy Cross. All services are celebrated in red vestments.
9. Feast of the Holy Forty Martyrs of Sebaste. The Presanctified Divine Liturgy may be celebrated, with Epistle and Gospel for the Saints.
14. Daylight Saving Time begins. The Feast of our Holy Father Benedict observed in Benedictine houses.
18. The Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete, the Presanctified Liturgy may be celebrated on in the evening.
24. Pre-festive Day of the Annunciation. At the Vespers and Presanctified Divine Liturgy, the three Old Testament readings of the feast are read after the two of the Triodion.
25. Feast of the Annunciation. Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom is celebrated with Vespers in the evening. Old Testament readings: Genesis 46:1-7 Proverbs 23:15-24:5. Exodus 3:1-8; Proverbs 8:22-31
26. Final Day (Otdanije) of the Feast of the Annunciation.
28. Palm Sunday. The blessing of palms and pussywillows.
29-31. Great and Holy Week. The Presanctified Divine Liturgy is celebrated on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. The Gospel is read at the Presanctified Divine Liturgies.

Wednesday, March 24
Zachary Venerable
CONFESSIONS **6:00-6:30 PM**
Presanctified Gifts Divine Liturgy **7:00 PM**
Intention: Simon & Pamela Buchman (Bullock family)



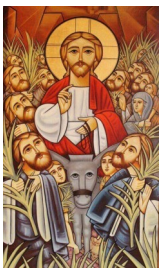
Thursday, March 25
Annunciation of the Theotokos
CONFESSIONS **6:00-6:30 PM**
Divine Liturgy **7:00 PM**
Intention: Martin Nagy, Deacon (Sister Marcella)

Friday, March 26
Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel
CONFESSIONS **6:00-6:30 PM**
Presanctified Gifts Divine Liturgy **7:00 PM**
Intention: +Gail Person (Doreene Stacy)



Saturday Morning, March 27
Saturday of Lazarus
CONFESSIONS **8:00-8:30 AM**
Divine Liturgy **9:00 AM**
Intention: Deirdre McQuade (Bullock family)

Saturday Evening, March 27
CONFESSIONS **4:00-4:30 PM**
Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy **5:00 PM**
Intention: Bohdan & Maria Lonchyna (Bullock family)



SUNDAY, March 28, Festal Tone
Palm Sunday
CONFESSIONS **9:00-9:30 AM**
Third Hour **9:40 AM**
Divine Liturgy **10:00 AM**
Phil: 4:4-9; John 12:1-18
Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas

Tuesday, March 30
Great and Holy Tuesday
CONFESSIONS **6:00-6:30 PM**
Presanctified Gifts Divine Liturgy **7:00 PM**
Intention: +Nada Skrbic (Bullock family)

Wednesday, March 31
Great and Holy Wednesday
CONFESSIONS **6:00-6:30 PM**
Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts with the Holy Mystery of the Anointing of the Sick for all baptized faithful present **7:00 PM**
Exodus 2:11-22; Job 2:1-10; Matthew 26:6-16
Intention: +Virginia Hill (Al Ferencz)

Thursday, April 1
Great and Holy Thursday
CONFESSIONS **6:00-6:30 PM**
Vespers Divine Liturgy **7:00 PM**
Exodus 19:10-19; Job 38:1-23;42:1-5; Isaiah 50:4-11; 1 Corinthians 11:23-32; Composite Gospel Reading (Matthew 26:2-20; John 13:3-17; Matthew 26:21-39; Luke 22:43-45; & Matthew 26:40-27:2
Intention: Carol Bullock (Doreene Stacy)



Friday, April 2
Great and Holy Friday/Good Friday
Good Friday Matins with Reading of the 12 Passion Gospels **11:00AM**
John 13:31-18:1; John 18:1-28; Matthew 26:57-75; John 18:28-19:16; Matthew 27:3-32; Mark 15:16-32; Matthew 27:33-54; Luke 23:32-49; John 19:25-37; Mark 15:43-47;J ohn19:38-42; Matthew 27:62-66

Friday Evening, April 2
Great and Holy Friday/Good Friday
CONFESSIONS **6:00-6:30 PM**
and after service
Entombment Vespers **7:00 PM**
Exodus 33:11-23; Job 42:12-17; Isaiah 52:13-54:1; 1 Corinthians 1:18-2:2; Composite Gospel Reading (Matthew 27:1-38; Luke 23:39-43; Matthew 27:39-54; John 19:31-37; Matthew 27:55-61)
Burial Procession Gospel Readings: Matthew 27:33-61; Mark 15:43-47; Luke 23:32-56; John 19:38-42



Good Friday, April 2—All Night Vigil:

St. Thomas will have an All Night Vigil to guard the tomb after Good Friday Vespers. Two people are needed for each hour to guard the tomb. A sign up sheet will be in the church and in the hall. The guarding of the tomb will continue until Jerusalem Matins on Holy Saturday.

Forgiveness—a service before the Great Fast.
Forgive me a sinner! May God forgive you.


Pani Luba and Rev. Mykhaylo Sidun, Fr. Sylvester Modebei, Fr. Chris Axline, Tom Clark













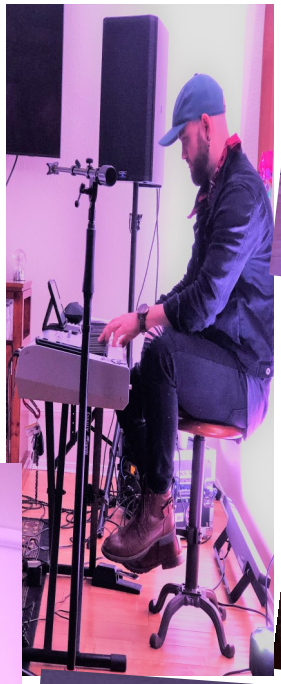


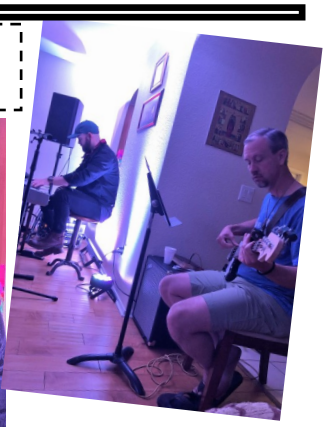


The St. Thomas Youth Group
gather for fellowship at the Rectory

















Saturday Morning, April 3
Great and Holy Saturday
Jerusalem Matins **9:00 AM**
Ezekiel 37:1-14; Composite Epistle Reading
(1 Corinthians 5:6-8; Galatians 3:13-14);
Matthew 27:62-66

Holy Saturday, April 3 - 10:30 AM. After Jerusalem Matins, we will decorate the inside of the church. Please volunteer to help prepare our church for Pascha.



Saturday Evening, April 3
Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy **5:00 PM**
Genesis 1:1-13; Isaiah 60:1-16; Exodus 12:1-11;
Jonah 1:1-4:11; Joshua 5:10-15; Exodus 13:20-15:19;
Zephaniah 3:8-15; 3[1] Kings 17:8-24; Isaiah 61:10-62:5;
Genesis 22:1-18; Isaiah 61:1-9; 4[2] Kings 4:8-37; Isaiah
63:11- 64:5; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Daniel 3:1-90 (verses 57-
90 are sung with a refrain); Romans 6:3-11;
Matthew 28:1-20
Intention: Bronson family (Little family)



Sunday, April 4, Festal Tone

Great and Holy Pascha
The Glorious Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ.

Resurrection Matins with procession **8:45 AM**
Divine Liturgy **10:00 AM**
Reading of the Gospel in Multiple Languages
Anointing with the Oil of Gladness
Blessing of Easter Baskets — Please stay and join us.
Acts 1:1-8; John 1:1-17
Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas



Christ is risen! / Indeed He is risen!
Christós voskrése! / Voístinu voskrése!
– Cristo ha resucitado! / En verdad ha resucitado!

Monday, April 5
Bright Monday
Resurrection Matins **9:00 AM**
Divine Liturgy **10:00 AM**
Acts 1:12-17, 21-26; John 1:18-28
Procession Gospel Readings: Matthew 28:1-20;
Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-10
Intention: Honora Bullock (Little family)

Tuesday, April 6
Bright Tuesday
Holy, Glorious, & Victorious Great Martyr
George the Wonder-worker
Resurrection Matins **9:00 AM**
Divine Liturgy **10:00 AM**
Acts 2:14-21 & Acts 12:1-11; Luke 24:12-35
& John 15:17-16:2
Intention: Joseph Barnes (Doreene Stacy)

Saturday Evening, April 10
Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy **5:00 PM**
Acts 5:12-20; John 20:19-31
Intention: Deirdre McQuade (Bullock family)



Sunday, April 11, Festal Tone
Thomas Sunday
Parish Patronal Feast
Third Hour **9:40 AM**
Procession & Divine Liturgy **10:00 AM**
Acts 5:12-20; John 20:19-31
Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas

April 11, Thomas Sunday—PARISH PATRONAL FEAST

Bishop John Pazak will be attending our Patronal Feast. Additional Bishop(s) may also attend and we have invited clergy from other Catholic Churches. **We will also have a potluck to celebrate the great feast of Thomas Sunday**. Please bring Pascha bread, kielbasa, cheese, horseradish, beets, desserts, etc.!

Thomas Sunday, April 11th—Easter Egg Hunt: We will have our annual Easter Egg Hunt for our children on our Patronal Feast after Divine Liturgy. Plastic eggs will be available in the church hall. Please take some home, fill, and return to church. (Please don't fill with candy/chocolate that will melt. Jelly beans and non-candy items such as stickers or miniature images of saints work well inside the eggs.) Volunteers are needed to help with this event. Please talk with Danny or Kris Forbes if you have questions or to volunteer for this activity.





Happy Birthday!

Teresa SIDUN	3/4
Josh FORBES	3/10
Philip BRONSON	3/11
Charles CRAIG	3/12
Johnathan BRONSON	3/15
Sarah CLARK	3/18
Al FERENCZ	3/19
Julia MOORE	3/21
Richard LOPEZ	3/22

Happy Anniversary!

Fr. Michael & Pani Luba SIDUN	3/4
Simon & Pam BUCHMAN	3/6

May God grant them many blessed years

Summary for February 2021

Tithes: Adults	$6,117.67
Donations: Misc.	985.00
Improvements, Remodeling	50.00
Candles	118.68
*Bishop's Appeal	520.00
Coffee Social	145.91
Gift Shop	30.00
Total deposit to checking	$7,967.26
*Minus special collections	-$520.00
Total for St. Thomas:	$7,447.26



Thank you to all who participated in online giving, mailed, or hand-delivered your tithe or other donations these past couple of weeks!

*DURING THIS DIFFICULT TIME, PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THE BILLS STILL NEED TO BE PAID. PLEASE CONSIDER MAILING US YOUR MONTHLY DONATIONS. May God bless your generosity to His Church!

Please feel free to talk with Fr. Michael about parish needs

Announcements:

2021 Eparchial Appeal

This year, **Most Reverend Bishop Thomas Olmsted** and **Most Reverend Bishop John Pazak** are asking our parish to donate a total of **$10,039.33** to the eparchy to help it with its ministry and programs. If each Parish household donates an average of **$275.00,** we should reach our goal and receive a 10% rebate as a reward. You can now donate through the parish as in the past (cash or check) or you can donate directly to the eparchy while crediting St. Thomas as your parish of record. This second option allows you to donate by credit card (in addition to check). Thank you for your generosity! This is no small sum of money for most of us. Let's include the Bishop's Appeal in our extra charitable giving during the Great Fast. If you did not receive a mailing from **Most Reverend Bishop Thomas Olmsted** and **Most Reverend Bishop John Pazak** regarding the Eparchial Appeal and would like to make a donation, please let Fr. Michael know. Thank you for your generosity!

Thank you! Gracias! D'akujem! Ευχαριστούμε! Дякую!

Sunday Coffee Social: (Please Note Important Changes)

Beginning **3/21**, we will return to our "normal" tradition for Sunday Coffee Socials wherein parishioners/ families volunteer to host a Sunday Coffee Social, excluding Potlucks (2nd Sunday of each month & other special Sunday events). A sign-up sheet for Mar-Apr is on the Hall bulletin board. Teaming up with another family to host a Sunday Social is encouraged. The socials for March 7 & 14 will be potluck. Please talk with Lynn Sims (480-205-0508) if you have any questions.

I thank all of you who support St. Thomas with your time, talents, gifts, and treasures. May the Lord reward your kindness!



Gregory & Angela

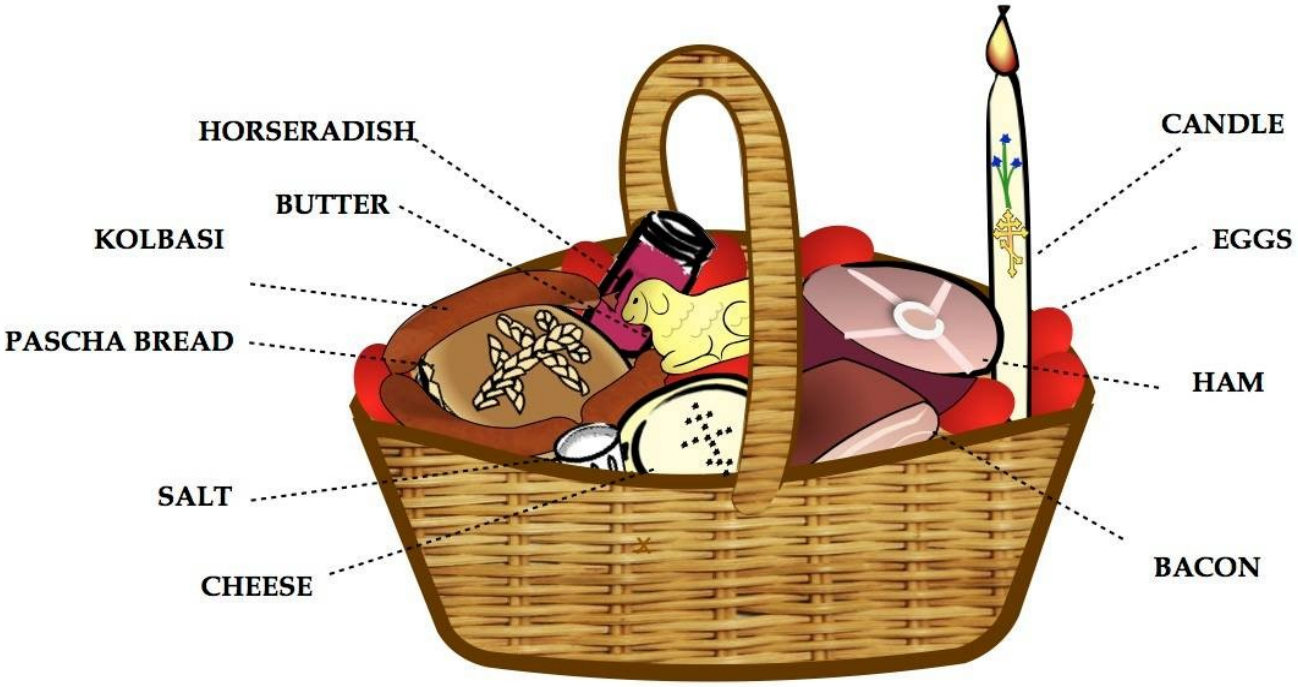
CON-GRATULATIONS!

May God grant you many blessed years

Christ is risen! / Indeed He is risen!
Christós voskrése! / Voístinu voskrése!
– Cristo ha resucitado! / En verdad ha resucitado!

How to Put Together a Traditional Easter Basket

"Text adapted from an article by Fr. Basil Kraynyak, GCU Messenger, April, 1979" Illustrated by Fr. Jonathan Bannon





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.

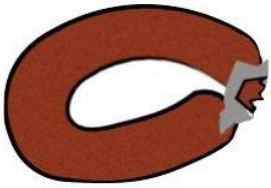


HAM - (Rusyn: Šunka - pron. shoon-ka.) The Flesh meat popular with the Slavs as the main dish because of its richness and symbolic of the great joy and abundance of Easter. Some may prefer Lamb or Veal. This is usually well roasted or cooked as well as other meats so the festivity of the day will not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



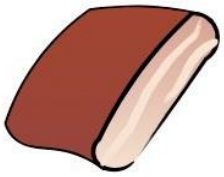


BUTTER - (Rusyn: Maslo pron. ma-slo.) This favorite dairy product is often shaped into a figure of a Lamb or small cross and decorated as the cheese. This reminds us of the goodness of Christ that we should have toward all things.



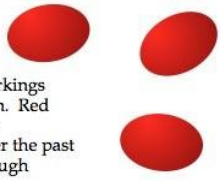
SAUSAGE (Rusyn: Kolbasi-pron. kol-bus-i.) A spicy, garlic sausage of pork products indicative of God's flavor and generosity.

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.





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



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.



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

