



Our Lady of Sorrows

Annual Easter Basket Blessing and Egg Hunt

Holy Saturday – April 20, 2019

9:45 – Blessing of the Easter baskets in the upper church.

The egg hunt will immediately follow the blessing on the church lawn near the playground.

In case of rain, the egg hunt will be held in St. Joseph's Hall.

Children of all ages are welcome.

Little ones will hunt separately.

The suggested donation is \$4 per child and no more than \$12 per family. Payment may be made the day of the event.

Bagels and Coffee included!

Don't forget to bring a collection basket or bag!

Please email Jaclyn Spoerel @ jacdes79@yahoo.com

Swienconka or “The Blessing of the Baskets” Swienconka (Sveen-Tsonka) in Polish

Swienconka refers to the Easter foods taken to church, in baskets lined with linens, for blessing on Holy Saturday. Swienconka also refers to the meal at which they are eaten on Easter morning. Each food is symbolic of the life, death, or resurrection of Christ. This meal is considered the first breakfast in the traditions of many nationalities, serving to break-the-fast of the season of lent; therefore, it is a meal of celebration.

On **Saturday, April 20th at 9:45 am**, O.L.S. will have our annual blessing of these baskets before our Easter Egg Hunt. For those wishing to participate in the Swienconka the following is a guide to familiarize yourself with this traditionally Polish custom. Feel free to alter the foods and bring your own interpretation of the Easter Breakfast in a basket to be blessed.)

Eggs – (Hardboiled) Eggs have long been regarded as a symbol of new life. The emergence of a newborn chick from the shell is a sign of the new life Christ provided through his resurrection, but also been compared to His emergence from the tomb on Easter morning. Poles cut the first egg into pieces so that all may share the egg, symbolizing our sharing of Christ with each other. Salt is a symbol of prosperity, and that we are the “salt of the earth” (St. Matthew 5:13) and is sprinkled on the egg. Pepper and horseradish are reminiscent of our Lord’s passion and may be sprinkled on the eggs.

***Ham, Pork, Kielbasa** – all of these types of pork were forbidden under the dietary codes of the Old Testament. Since our Lord comes to fulfill the law, the old makes way for the new. One main element of the Swienconka ceremony is the blessing of those formerly forbidden foods, emphasizing the “New Covenant” which Jesus Christ established for all by His death and resurrection.

***Butter (or Pascal) Lamb** – This lamb may also be made of dough or of cast plaster. This lamb is featured carrying a red banner emblazoned with a cross. The symbolism of the lamb has many meanings. Our Lord proclaimed, “I am the Good Shepard.” (St. John 10:11). St. John the Baptist proclaimed, “Behold the Lamb of God.” St. John 1:29). The lamb a sacrificial animal in ancient times, portrays Christ as victorious through this presentation.

***Bread or Babka** – This is a round loaf of bread topped with a frosting cross. This symbolizes the bread of the Eucharistic meal.

Vinegar – Reminds us of the sour wine given to Jesus as He hung upon the cross.

Wine – Reminds us of Jesus’ blood, particularly His request to drink of His blood.

*Items with an asterisk, such as Kielbasa, babka and the butter lamb are traditional Polish items.