

Easter Food Blessing!



Saturday, March 31, 2018
1:00 p.m.
SS. Cyril & Methodius
(822 New Jersey Ave.)

Dear Parishioners of Immaculate Conception, St. Peter Claver and SS. Cyril & Methodius,

In Slavic countries the blessing of Easter Foods or Baskets was an important community tradition. This venerable and treasured custom is still kept alive at SS. Cyril & Methodius till this day! Plan to attend this important family friendly event Holy Saturday afternoon. It could easily become a wonderful token of gratitude for the abundant blessings that God has bestowed upon us with the arrival of Spring and even more so the grand Season of Resurrection.

In earlier times, amidst stricter regulations and fast, meat and dairy products were often excluded from the daily diet during the entire season. As the end of Lent approached, the people showed their joy by bringing their food to be blessed and eaten after the Easter Liturgy.

“Banqueting”, after all, was a favorite feature of ministry and teaching tool of Jesus! The Catholic Church appreciates this “earthy” truth. The disciples testify that dining with Jesus did not come to an end with his death. The opposite is true! Post Resurrection accounts place him at an early “fish fry” by the Sea of Tiberias with Peter (Jn. 21:1-19). Two disciples on the Road to Emmaus, also came to “recognize him in the breaking of the bread” (Lk. 24: 13-15) among many other accounts! The last book of scripture, Revelation, also goes on to describe the final heavenly dining experience as the “wedding feast of the Lamb” with choices of fare (Rev. 19:9). Yes, the connection with food and Easter is quite obvious.

Besides the chocolate or marshmallow bunny peeping out from the illustration above (and, it’s ok to bring one along to share with the priest!), a wide variety of other traditional items of great symbolic value can be stuffed into a basket and brought to church! Special homemade or store bought breads can serve as a reminder of Jesus, our “Bread of Life” (Jn 6:51). A meat product can recall the Savior, sacrificed as the spotless lamb who took “away the sins of the world” (Jn 1:29). Meat can also symbolize the fattened calf prepared for the prodigal son (representing fallen humanity) on his return to the father (representing God, the Heavenly Father). Dairy products (cheese, cream, butter, etc.) often in combination with a bottle of honey, serve to remind us of the “prosperity and peace” of the Promised Land (flowing with milk and honey) and Messianic Times, which had been foretold by the prophets (e.g. Lk. 15:23, Is. 7:22, Joel 3:16, etc.) Boiled eggs, plain or intricately decorated, can symbolize the stone before the tomb that Christ broke through (much like a chick breaking through the shell towards the hope of greater life). An unusual item might grace a basket; a root of horseradish (a reminder of a sharp: nail that pierced the hands and feet of Jesus on the cross). To make the basket complete, bring some of these other items: a jar of water (to bless the home), a jar of salt (so necessary to life that Jesus said to his disciples “You are the salt of the earth!” a candle (marked with a cross) to represent Christ, the Light of the World, or a sprig of greenery. A bottle of wine can also serve as a reminder of The Eucharist and the cup of sacrifice and salvation afforded. The whole collection can be covered in a nice cloth.

Make a greater connection with the local church and your home (the “domestic church”) this Easter! Come to this special event!

Easter Blessings!

All Women of the Sheboygan Area Catholic Parishes
are cordially invited to join us for a

Morning of Reflection

Saturday, April 14, 2018

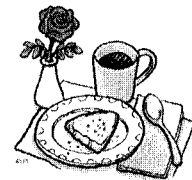
At St. Clement Parish, corner of N. 6th St. & New York Ave., Sheboygan

- In Dominican Hall - lower level of church
- Enter parking lot from New York Ave. or Wisconsin Ave.
- Handicapped-Accessible entrance is on New York Ave.

8:30 AM: Registration

9:00 AM: Breakfast

9:45 AM - 11:30 AM: Speaker, Fr. Daniel Lasecki



Topic: The Mystical, Magical, Mystery of Faith

11:30 AM: Special Surprise Entertainment provided by Judy Wilsing

Invite family and friends to share in this special spiritual time.

Cost: \$10.00 per person / RSVP deadline is April 9, 2018

Seating is limited. Receipt of your check guarantees your seat.

Please mail your check (**made out to St. Clement Altar Society**) to:

St. Clement Altar Society c/o Mary Kellner
322 S. Pershing St. • Howards Grove, WI 53083-1249

or

Drop off at the Holy Name of Jesus Parish Office
807 Superior Ave. • Sheboygan, WI 53081-3442

Question? Email: kellnerspromo@wi.rr.com