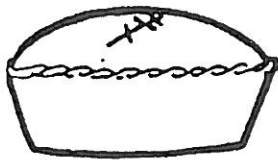
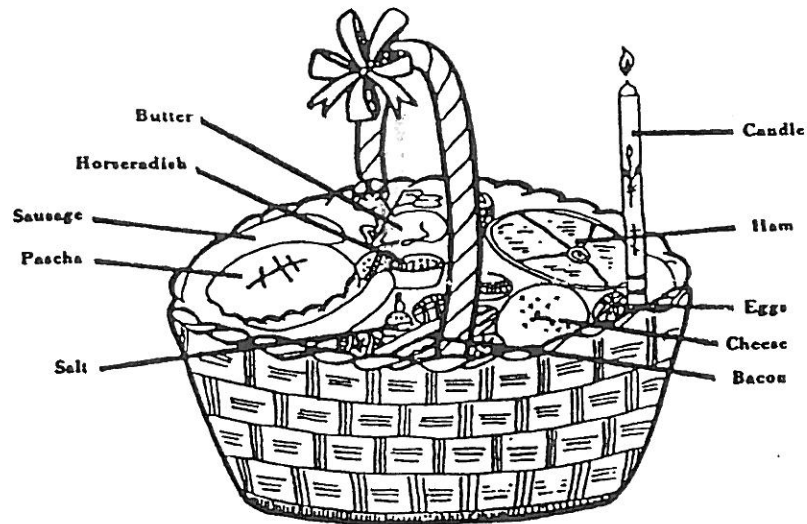


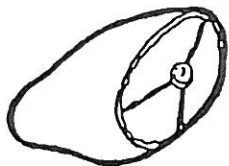
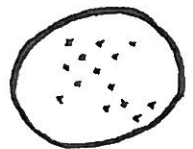
How to Put Together a Traditional Easter Basket



PASCHA - The Easter Bread. A sweet yeast bread rich in eggs, butter, etc. Symbolic of Christ Himself who is our True Bread. Usually a round loaf baked with golden crust decorated with a symbol indicative of Christ. Sometimes a cross (+) of dough

is placed on the top encircled by a plait giving it a crowned effect or Greek abbreviations for the name of Christ. The letters XB indicate the Slavonic for Christ is Risen.

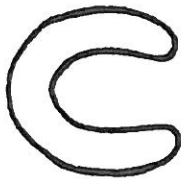
CHEESE - A custard-type cheese shaped into a ball having a rather bland but sweet taste indicative of the moderation that Christians should have in all things. Also, creamed cheese is placed in a small dish and both decorated with symbols out of cloves or pepper balls.



HAM - 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 that the festivity of the day will not be burdened with preparation and all may enjoy the Feast.

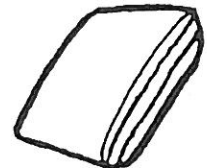


BUTTER - The favorite dairy product is shaped into figures of Lambs or small cross and decorated the cheese. This reminds us of the goodness of Christ that we should have toward things.



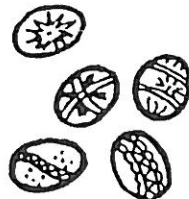
SAUSAGE - Kolbasi. A spicy, garlicky sausage of pork products, indicative of God's favor and generosity.

BACON - A piece of uncooked bacon cured with spices. Symbolic of the overabundance of God's mercy to us.



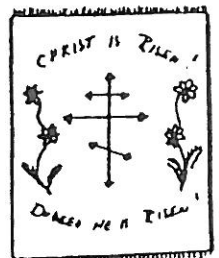
SALT - A condiment necessary for flavoring reminding the Christian of his duty to others.

EGGS - Hard-boiled eggs brightly decorated with symbols and marking made with bees wax. Indicative of new life and resurrection.



These articles 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 it 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.



HORSERADISH - Horseradish mixed with grated red beets. Symbolic of the Passion of Christ still in our minds but sweetened with some sugar because of the Resurrection. A bitter-sweet red color mixture reminds us of the suffering of Christ.