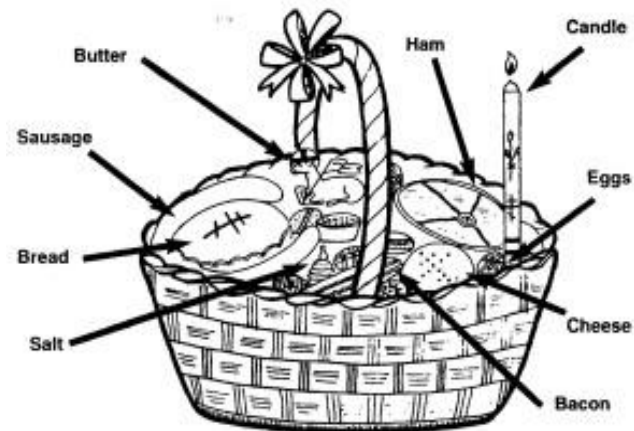


Święconka meaning "the blessing of the Easter baskets," is one of the most enduring and beloved Polish traditions usually celebrated on Holy Saturday



The Easter Feast concludes the fasting during Lent – food that is brought to Mass is now blessed.

The original foods blessed were those prescribed for the Passover Meal of the Old Testament: Lamb, Bread, Wine, Bitter Herbs. The Last Supper was celebrated on Passover. Pesach is Hebrew for Passover and is still used today as the basis for the word for Easter in Spanish, Portuguese, Ukrainian, French:– Pascha, Pascua, Pacques. Other foods, particularly meats, have since been Christianised for blessings as Christianity spread across the world.

The baskets are decorated with ribbons, a candle and wrapped in linen in the basket. The foods in the basket to be blessed at Easter have a traditional meaning.

Easter Breads

A round loaf such as Hot Cross Buns topped with a cross or a fish symbolic of Jesus who is our true bread of Life.

Salt

Salt of the Earth. One of the original Passover meal foods. An element of Life. Jesus said "You are the Salt of the Earth"

Butter

Often shaped into a lamb or cross. Reminds us of the goodness of Christ that we should feel towards all things



Ham or Veal or Lamb.

Based on Passover, symbolic of great joy, the Risen Lamb of God.

Cheese

symbolic of moderation.

Smoked Bacon

symbolic of abundance.

Eggs

Decorated with Easter symbols. Symbols of prosperity and new life
- The Resurrection

Horseradish with grated red beets – symbolic of Christ's Passion.