

CHRISTIAN TRADITIONS



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Palm Sunday

Palms are blessed in church to this day on Palm Sunday. In the past there were two types of palms: one for men and one for women. The female palms were definitely larger and more ornate. In the interwar period and even after the war, they were made very decorative - colourful flowers, moss, club moss, paper, dyed wood shavings. Later palms became simpler - they were made of blooming currant, willow or oleander twigs and they were tied with a ribbon. After blessing the palms, there was a custom of hitting each other with them.

Prohibition of baking bread

During the week before Palm Sunday until Holy Week the housewives couldn't bake bread. Breaking the ban threatened to bring drought to the entire village. Therefore, the guilty housewife was punished by being thrown with her pots into nearby water.



Funeral of sour soup and herring

In the old days the fasting period was strictly respected and the consumption of practically everything - meat, sugar and even dairy products was limited. Only sour soup and herring were eaten. Therefore, on Good Friday, because of the joy towards the end of the fast, the so-called funeral of sour soup and herring was celebrated. All the inhabitants of the village, with shouts of pure joy, buried that food in the prepared pit and they parted with it for the whole year. In some regions of Poland a pot of ashes was additionally buried, which symbolized the end of sadness, sorrow and the coming of joy!

Drowning of Judas

On Holy Wednesday teenagers make a straw puppet symbolizing Judas Iscariot. After dragging it through the whole village, they throw it into the water and stones are thrown at it until it finally drowns.



Easter Basket

On Holy Saturday the blessing of food takes place. We then eat it for Easter breakfast. This pagan tradition has been sanctified by the Church. Although the size of the basket varies depending on the region, each one must include: eggs, Easter lamb, bread, salt, sausage and horseradish, as well as agricultural crops. It was believed that sacrificing them would yield the same, or even greater harvest next year.

Resurrection Sunday

Holy Sunday begins with a solemn mass – the resurrection mass. Later, the family sits down together at the table and eats a festive breakfast that begins with making wishes and sharing an egg blessed in church the day before.



<http://weneda.pl>

Octave of Corpus Christi

The octave of Corpus Christi was associated with the custom of wreaths of flowers and herbs with an odd number and it is practiced until today. In the past, wreaths were put into coffins for the deceased, or burned under the kitchen during a storm.

Harvesting habits

The harvest was associated with the custom of arranging a sort of gathering. It was arranged after the harvest. A handful of cut grain from the last tuft of wheat or other type of grain was made into a bunch or a wreath decorated with wildflowers, which were brought home after the meeting. It was also common to pour water and arrange lavish snacks and games for all the volunteering people, regardless of the yield. After the harvest a lot of harvest wreaths were made.

Our Lady of Herbs

On the feast of Our Lady of Herbs, bouquets of various types of cereals, vegetables, flowers and cabbage heads were blessed in a church. Grains from the blessed bouquets were added to each type of grain before sowing.