



# News of Polonia

Serving the Polish Community since 1995

## Wiadomości Polonijne

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Free or Home Delivery

### Holy Saturday food-blessing prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, who, on the day before Your passion and death, told Your disciples to prepare the paschal supper, on the day of your Resurrection accepted the invitation of two disciples and sat down to the table with them and later that evening came to the Apostles to partake of a meal with them, we implore You to let us in faith experience your presence amongst us during the festive repast on the day of Your victory, that we might rejoice at taking part in Your life and resurrection.

Living Bread, who came down from heaven and in Holy Communion gives life to the world, please this bread and all holiday baked goods in memory of the bread with which You fed the people devoutly listening to You in the desert and in memory of the holiday dishes You consumed with the Apostles during the Last Supper.

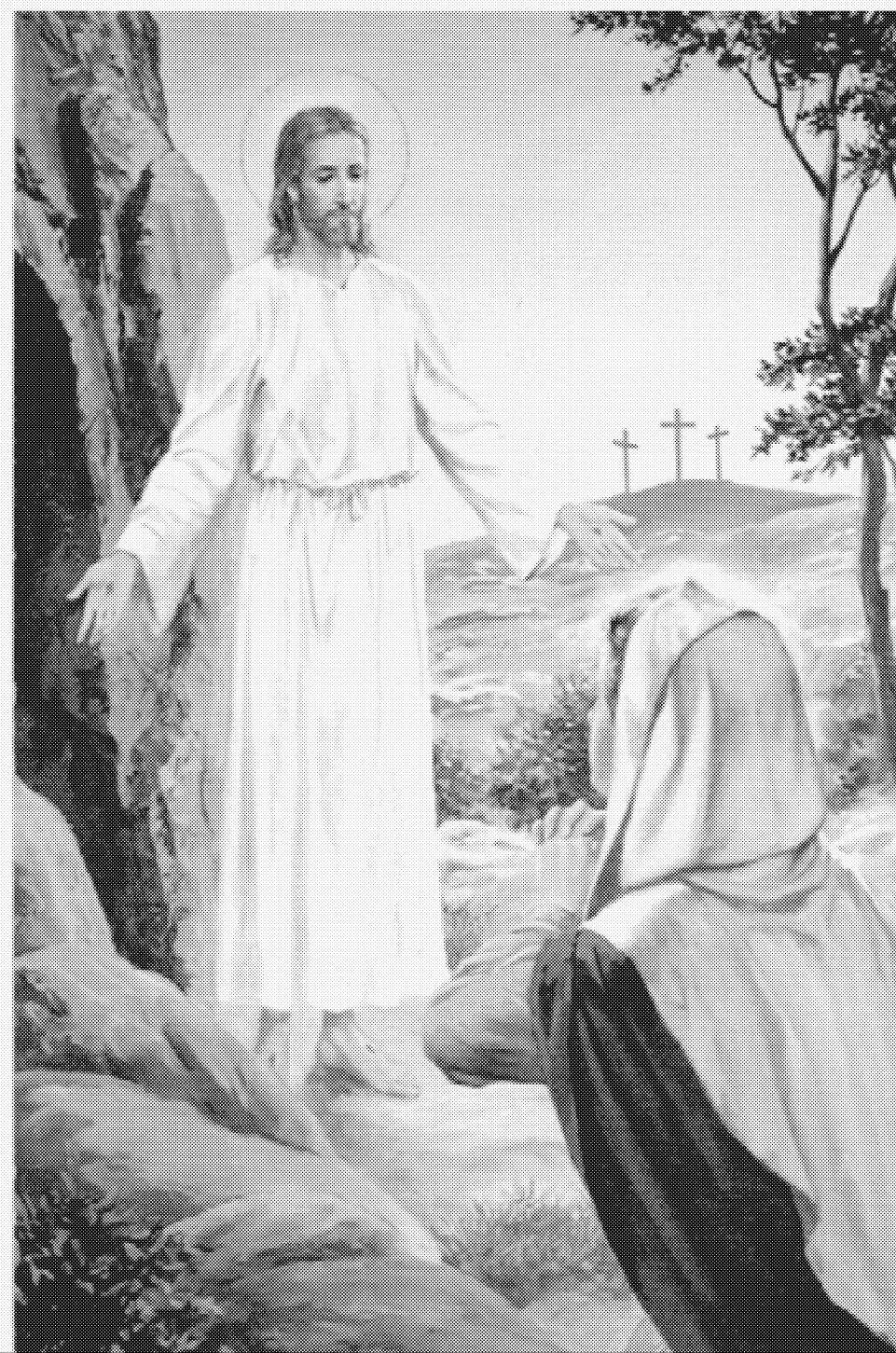
Lamb of God, who has conquered evil and cleansed the world of sin, bless these meats, sausages and all the foods of which we shall partake in memory of the Paschal Lamb and of the holiday fare You shared with Your Apostles at the Last Supper. Bless also this salt that it may preserve us from corruption.

Lord Jesus Christ, our life and Resurrection, bless these eggs, the sign of new life, so that when we share them with our families, close friends and guests, we could also mutually share the joy that You too are in our midst. May we all attain Your eternal feast there, where you live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

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The priest now sprinkles the food with holy water, while the faithful make the Sign of the Cross when their baskets get sprinkled. □

## Wesołego Alleluja



### A Pol-Am Easter story

### One Polonian Easter after Vatican II?

By: **Robert Strybel**,  
Polish/Polonian Affairs Writer

The venue could have been Chicago, Detroit, Milwaukee, Cleveland or some other Midwestern metropolis. In the aftermath of World War II, many of their once tight-knit Polish neighborhoods began declining. An expressway cutting through such an area often separated residents from their churches, social halls and shops. Urban blight, racial transition and upward mobility among younger former residents scattered Polish American across urban and suburban mixed neighborhoods.

Unlike the old Polish neighborhoods, they were largely populated by old-stock English, Irish and German residents as well as more recent Polish, Italian and other newcomers moving in from their Poletowns and Little Italies. The pastor of the local parish may be been a Father Schmidt or O'Neil, but even if his name was Kowalik or Mazur, that alone was no guarantee of his commitment to his time-honored Polish heritage.

In addition to the demographic reshuffling, the Second Vatican Council in the 1960s had produced a fair amount of religious turmoil. Some gung-ho younger priests went overboard ridding their parishes of religious artworks and artifacts which many parishioners held dear. Statues of the saints, beautiful hand-crafted confessionals, even artistically carved Stations of the Cross were removed in an attempt to make Catholic churches look more modern, streamlined and Protestant-like. Many ethnic customs also got the axe.

One Holy Saturday quite a few years ago, parishioners brought their baskets to church as they and their parents and grandparents had always done. They knelt or sat in their pews and wondered why the tableau of Christ's Tomb had not been set up at the side altar. They waited and waited, but nothing happened. The nuns decorating the altar for Easter Sunday said they didn't know why the baskets were being blessed.

Someone finally decided to go to the rectory and find out. There a youngish priest – let's call him Father Nowak – explained: "Vatican Two has modernized the Church. Statues, rosaries and other medieval notions are no longer relevant for contemporary Catholics. And quaint Old Country customs like blessing baskets have nothing to do with religion and are completely unnecessary." The parishioner's arguments that the food-blessing custom was cherished by many in the parish fell on deaf ears.

The parishioner returned to the church and told the others what he had been told. Most quietly slipped out of church with their baskets and headed home. But those who stayed were far more adamant. "Our parents and grandparents built this parish with their hard-earned money, and now the statues and furnishings are being dumped." Another chimed in: "We took the trouble to make up these baskets and bring them to church, so the least they could do is sprinkle them with Holy Water."

*Pol-Am Easter to page 16*

### Wiadomości Polonijne

Akcja Katolicka	18
Biszop - Szkočka wdowa po Chopina	18
Chodakiewicz - V Kolumna	17
Cybuski - Katyn	18
Ks. Kamiński - Schody zbudowane	17
Krajczyńska - To mit	20
Latus - Smutna Ameryka	18
Dobrze im tak Amerykanom	19
Media w rozterce	20
Lucyk - Karski—Lanzman	20
Morawiecki - Naród w połowie	20
PAP - Służbie zdrowia	10
Prof. Pogonowski - Oligarchia okradła	17
Prof. Przystawa - Marionetki	17
Zmiany System	19
Rodziewicz - Dzień Flagi RP	19
Zychowicz - Bramy dla Sowietów	19

ACPC Scholarships Studies in Poland	4
Ball, Justyna - Stupid people	2
Calendar of SoCal	2
Chopin - Happy Birthday Celebration	5
Chopin Concert in San Francisco	6
Czop - Soviet Empire	4
Film Festival Schedule	8
Investments - Variable Annuities	3
Kolski running for Congress	7
LMU - Mermaid & Messerschmitt	6
Los Angeles Archdiocese Congress	6
Music - Remembering Tomczykowska	3
Northern CA News	12 & 13
Obituary - Joseph Stanley Dudzick	4
Obituary - Danuta M. Zawadzki	4
PAC - Michigan Division letter	9
Polish Sports Hall of Fame	5
Pogonowski - Lenin's mummy	9
Prof. Pienkos / Przystawa - elections	2
Strybel - Ask our Warsaw Man	10
Taxes - Missing a W-2?	3
Zakrzewski - Polonia at its best	3

### Our Lady of the Bright Mount – 3424 W. Adams Blvd. L.A.

**April 1 – HOLY THURSDAY** – Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:30 pm. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 10:00 pm.

**April 2 – GOOD FRIDAY** – Stations of the Cross at 3:00 pm, Liturgy of the Lord's Passion at 7:30 pm. Adoration at the tomb until 10:30 pm.

**April 3 – HOLY SATURDAY** – Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Confessions and Blessing of the Easter baskets from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm.

**April 4 – RESURRECTION OF THE LORD** - Liturgy of the Paschal Vigil and procession at 4:30 am. Easter Sunday Masses at 9:00 am and 12:00 pm.

**April 5 – EASTER MONDAY** – Masses at 10 am and 7:30 pm.

### Pope John Paul Center – 3999 Rose Drive, Yorba Linda

**Holy Thursday, April 1st** Mass of the Lord's Supper (Eng/Pol) at 7:30 PM

**Good Friday, April 2nd** 12:00 Noon Stations of the Cross (Eng)

3:00 PM Good Friday Liturgy in English

7:30 PM Good Friday Liturgy in Polish

**Holy Saturday, April 3rd** 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM Blessing of Easter Baskets

7:30 PM Easter Vigil Mass in English

**Easter Sunday, April 4th** 7:00 AM Procession and Resurrection Mass in Polish

9:00 AM Easter Mass in English

10:30 AM Easter Mass in Polish

12:00 Noon Latin Tridentine

**Easter Week**

**(The Octave of Easter)** Divine Mercy Chaplet every day at 3:00 PM

**Feast of Divine Mercy, Second Sunday of Easter, April 11th**

3:00 PM Divine Mercy Celebration (Pol/Eng)