

## Some Easter traditions kept alive among ethnic Catholics: Global Village

Posted by [mneff](#) April 09, 2009 07:48AM

With the end of Lent today, Christians around the region will begin the solemn approach to Easter, the most joyous holiday in the Christian faith. Easter traditions vary among the faithful, but they tend to be especially vibrant in ethnic communities.

Dan Kane recalls his grandmother packing a big basket with fresh bread, kielbasa and potatoes on Holy Saturday morning, covering the feast with a fine linen cloth and walking to St. Stanislaus Church to have a priest sprinkle the Easter foods with holy water.



ROBERT L. SMITH

On the steps of the historic church in Slavic Village, she stopped to chat with other mothers and grandmothers partaking in the Easter tradition.

The custom faded from many ethnic parishes but not from St. Stanislaus, the mother church of the region's Polish Catholic community. People will arrive from far and wide Saturday for the annual Blessing of Food baskets, which takes place at 10 and 11 a.m., noon and 2 p.m.

"My mom and dad will still do it," said Kane, 50, a lifelong member of the parish. "It's just one of those nice Easter traditions and one more reason to go to church on Holy Saturday."

### Colors of Ukraine

The Ukrainian tradition of pysanka takes egg coloring to the realm of high art. The Ukrainian Museum-Archives brings the craft down to nearly our level.

For the 16th year, the Tremont institution is offering pysanka exhibits and demonstrations as part of its annual Ukrainian Easter Bazaar, which continues today, Friday and Saturday at 1202 Kenilworth Ave.

More than 500 of the brilliantly decorated eggs are on display. Museum staff, meanwhile, are available to explain the ancient craft and the colors and designs that denote regions of Ukraine.

The bazaar also offers pysanka for sale, pysanka-making workshops and pysanka supplies. For more information, call 216-781-4329.

### Cambodian spring

Two special events offer a glimpse into the tragedy, the beauty and the spirit of Khmer culture.

Arn-Chorn Pond, the subject of the Emmy-nominated film, "The Flute Player," will speak at 6 tonight at Mather Mansion on the Cleveland State University campus as part of the Cultural Crossings Lecture Series.

Pond survived the Killing Fields by playing his flute for Khmer Rouge executioners, and today he is a human rights activist and the founder and spokesman of Cambodian Living Arts, which works to save Cambodia's musical heritage.

On Saturday night, the Khmer Buddhist Temple and the Cambodian American Buddhist Association will sponsor a Khmer New Year Party. The celebration of Cambodian New Year runs from 5 p.m. to midnight with food and music at AMPOL Hall, 4737 Pearl Road, Cleveland.

### **Citizenship help free**

The Ohio Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association is offering free guidance to aspiring citizens at its "Citizenship Day" April 18.

Immigration attorneys, paralegals and interpreters will help with naturalization applications and answer questions from 9:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland, 1223 West Sixth St. But you must schedule an appointment. Call 216-687-1900.

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### **Comments**

#### **repub4sure says...**

Tradition is fine, but at some point it really needs to be broken if it is not of The Resurrection of Christ! This is what this day/week is all about and anything else is unspiritualized!

The Christian faith has brought too many paganized rituals into the faith from the beginning and in my opinion we really need to get back to what Christ really wanted.

This was to bring saints to the Kingdom because their hearts wanted and to bring them here and their 'beliefs' also.

At any rate, it's all about Jesus Christ no matter what and I pray that 'ALL' Christians ... and I say CHRISTIANS ... I don't care if you're Baptist, Methodist, Catholic, Lutheran, etc ... let's get on the same Christ page and to serve Him accordingly on ONE ACCORD with 'every' denomination.

Let's agree on the Holy Bible and not man's ways. When we begin to fully follow the Word of God then we will begin to reap everything that He has for us.

When I say follow the Word I mean the Word. If what is happening isn't of God then we as Christians should not allow it or at least pray against the idea of bringing something that is not of God into play.

We must stick together to fight for the Word of God. If it is a governmental decision whether it is national, local, or state driven we need to pray against anything that is not of God and not to vote for those issues, representatives, etc.

Let's put our total faith in the Almighty God and let Him do His thing with our complete understanding that obedience will get us everything.

A very rocky road at times, but I believe we should look at our retirement instead of what rough times are giving us currently. Forget about the money you don't have, or the car you don't have, or this or that because as God supplies the creatures of the earth He will do the same for His children.

God bless everyone in the name of Jesus and Happy Resurrection Day ... Amen!

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