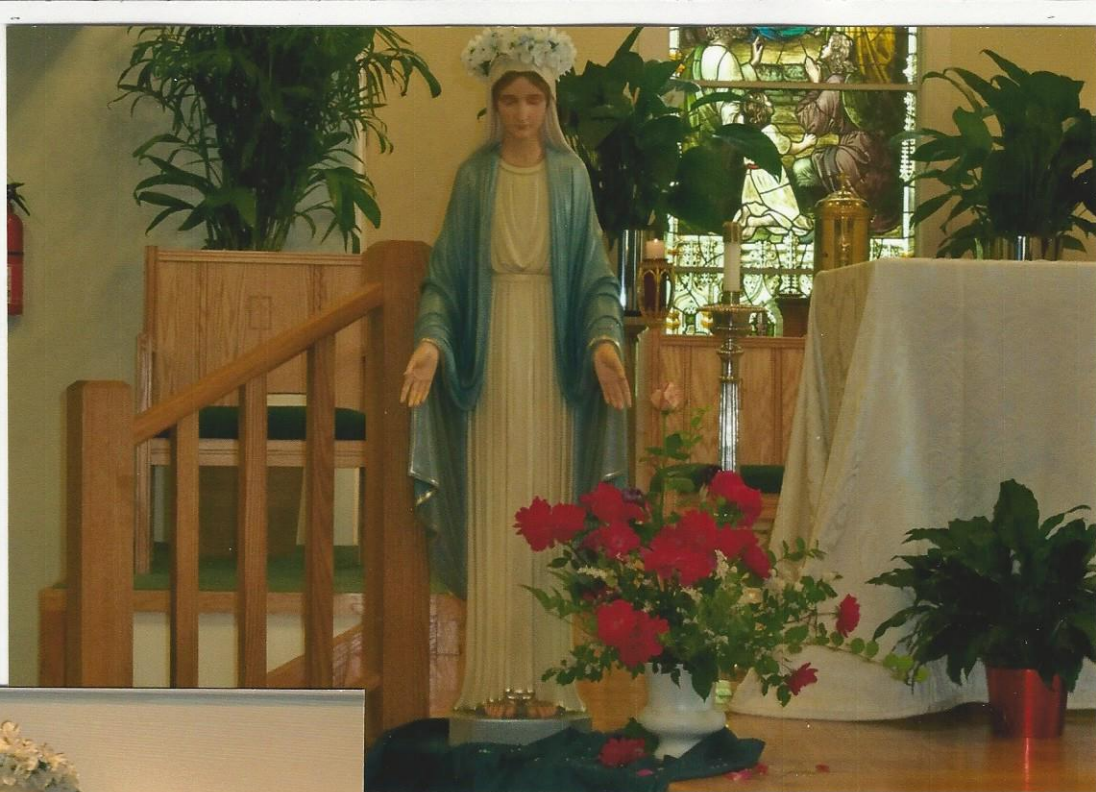




EASTERN EUROPEAN TRADITION OF
BLESSING OF THE EASTER
FOOD BASKETS



In many eastern European countries, it is traditional to have a basket of food blessed on Holy Saturday or Easter Sunday. The blessing of baskets is a practice dating back to the 15th century or earlier, and one that is still maintained by many eastern European families on Holy Saturday. The food items in the Easter basket have special significance. The white napkin that lines the basket represents the shroud of Christ. Butter shaped like a lamb; sugar, dough, wood or even plastic stands for Jesus, the Pascal lamb. The hard-cooked eggs symbolize new life or Christ rising from his tomb. Bread represents the bread of life given by God. Meat and sausages are symbols of the resurrected Christ. Horseradish represents accepting the bitter with the sweet of life. Vinegar represents the sour wine given to Jesus on the cross. Salt is to add zest to life and preserve us from corruption, and the sweets suggest the promise of eternal life or good things to come. Sometimes greens, vegetables and fruits would be included, and the basket was covered with a fine linen napkin or an embroidered doily.



MAY CROWNING OF
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY





Hospitality Committee

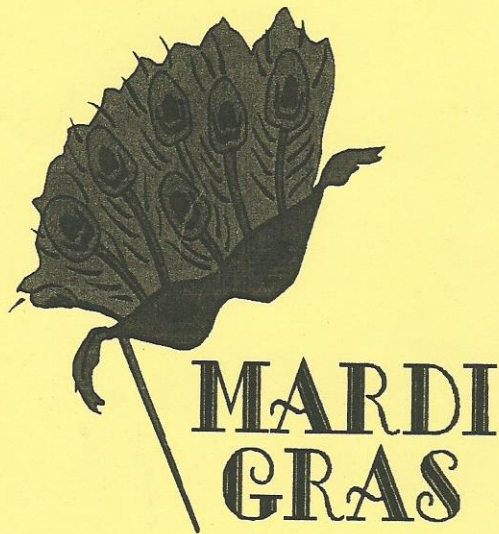


IT'S MARDI GRAS TIME

**TUESDAY
FEBRUARY 24th
6:00 p.m.
in the Parish Center**

This year's celebration will be a pancake breakfast meal. Some covered dish ideas:

- ◆ bacon
- ◆ sausage
- ◆ egg casserole
- ◆ quiche
- ◆ sweet breads





Valentine's Dinner





