

Czech Easter Traditions

~Maurice & Beverly Vonásek

Veselé Velikonoce

- During Communism, the religious celebrations were suppressed
- Instead, they celebrated arrival of Spring
- Since the collapse of Communism, the holiday is slowly becoming more Christian.
- It is still more of a welcoming of Spring.

2023 Easter Holidays celebrated in the Czech Republic

Feb 22	Wednesday	Ash Wednesday	(Popeleční středa)
Apr 2	Sunday	Palm Sunday / Flower Sunday	(Květná neděle)
Apr 6	Thursday	Maundy Thursday	(Zelený čtvrtek)
Apr 7	Friday	* Good / Great Friday	(Velký pátek)
Apr 8	Saturday	Holy / White Saturday	(Bílá sobota)
Apr 9	Sunday	Easter Sunday	(Velikonoční neděle)
Apr 10	Monday	* Easter Monday	(Pondělí velikonoční)

* National holiday



Leading up to Easter Week

- From Epiphany through Shrove Tuesday, Czechs celebrate Masopust—a season of merrymaking and masquerading
- Masopust means ‘meat fast’ and is equivalent to our Mardi Gras
- In 2023, Masopust will begin on Friday the 17th of February and go until Shrove Tuesday on 21st of February.
- The more authentic form of the early Masopust traditions are carried out with the Masopust processions. These celebrations are called, Masopustní průvod (Shrovetide) and occur in the Eastern Bohemian region of the Czech Republic. Costume dressed folks parade through the village streets spreading cheer to all.
- Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent. Some receive ashes on their forehead and begin the 40 days of fasting before Easter.



Klub žen pořádá
tradiční
MASOPUST
v **BOROVNÍKU**

dne 26. února 2022 od 11.00 hodin
za doprovodu harmoniky

Průvod začíná na návsi a navštíví všechny stavení v obci.
Ukončení masopustu bude na návsi v budově hasičky
s občerstvením a tancem.
Zvány jsou všechny maškary



Masopust in Borovnik - 2022



Easter Week Traditions

Blue Monday (Modré pondělí) - Spring cleaning should begin and broken household items thrown away. Blue is said to represent purity and can be seen in St. Mary's robe and is the color used to decorate churches. Historically, walls were whitewashed and green seedlings were placed on tables as a sign of spring.

Gray Tuesday (Šedivé úterý) - Reserved for cleaning out the gray cobwebs that accumulated over the winter.

Ugly Wednesday (Škaredá středa) - Known as Soot-Sweeping (Sazometná) or Black (Černá) Wednesday which involves sweeping the chimney following heavy winter use as well as sweeping away evil spirits from inside the house. It is also believed if you shouldn't frown on this day otherwise you'll always look bad on Wednesdays for the rest of the year. Ugly food is prepared on this day.

Green Thursday (Zelený čtvrtek) – Traditionally families would eat only green foods to be healthy for the rest of the year....green beer can be found too. Also, its the last day you will hear church bells until "White" Saturday.

Easter Week Traditions – Continued

Great Friday (Velký pátek) - The official national holiday begins on Good Friday. This is a day without meat and also one for fasting. A simple meal of cooked grains and cabbage soup was customary on this day. Washing laundry or plowing fields is considered unlucky on this day. Groups of boys walk through town with wooden noise makers called “rehtacky” to chase away evil spirits. They will stop at every house and rattle until they are given money

White Saturday (Bílá sobota) - Fasting continues and final preparations for Sunday and Monday get underway. Cakes are baked in the shape of a lamb. Mazanec, a sweetened bread with raisins and candied fruit is baked on this day. Boys & young men weave willow twigs into a “pomlázka,” a symbolic whip. Girls and women decorate eggs in traditional patterns with a pin. The decorated egg is called a “kraslice.”

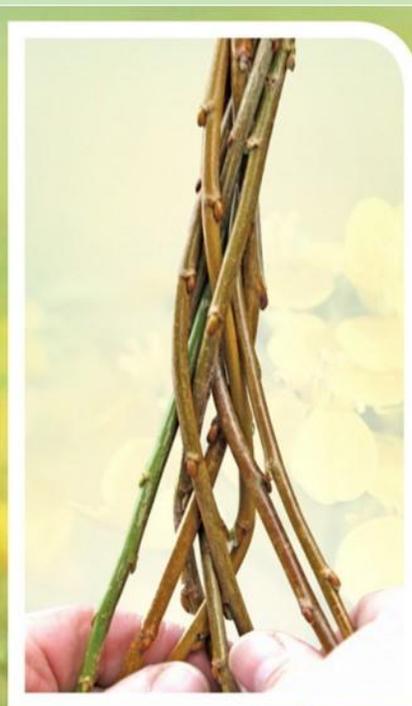
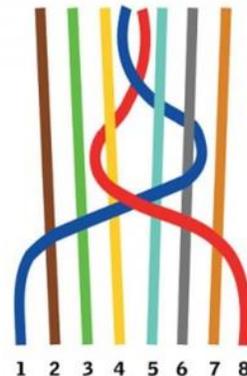
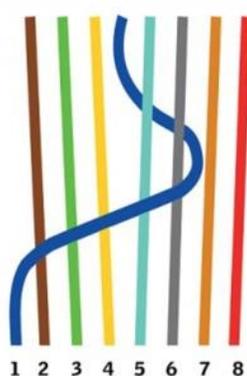
Easter Sunday (Velikonoce) - Lent is over and people eat a large meal. The devout should go to mass, and it's also considered a day for dressing up in your best clothes. After church, it is time for the Easter feast. Tradition says that people who eat lamb will find their way. As lamb can be expensive or not found, eating the substitute lamb-shaped cake should suffice. Those who haven't finished making their eggs and whips should do so.

Easter Monday (Velikonoční pondělí) - Boys & young men will go from house to house with their “pomlázka” and lightly whip young women on the backside. The tradition, which is much more popular in Moravia than in Bohemia, is meant to ensure fertility and health for women, and perhaps also a good harvest. Young women present the boys with a colored egg or chocolate. In some places, this is a way of avoiding being whipped. Adult men are usually given a shot of Slivovice.





Svázané proutky rozdělíme na dvě poloviny a vyrovnáme pod sebe – čtyři na každé straně. **Levý horní proutek provlečeme středem** mezi opačnými čtyřmi pruty a vrátíme jej na původní stranu, tentokrát ale dospodu. Stejným způsobem **pravý horní prut provlečeme středem** skupiny na opačné straně a vrátíme zpět. Takto opakujeme střídavě zprava a zleva až na konec pomlázky (nejkratšího prutu)



Easter Feasting in Czechia & Slovakia

The **Easter Lamb** (Velikonoční Beránek) cake can be found on nearly every Easter table. It is basically a sweet cake that symbolized Christ's sacrifice. When baked, it is gently removed from the baking tin, raisins are inserted as eyes, and the cake is sprinkled with vanilla sugar, or covered with chocolate icing or white frosting & coconut.

Another favorite is **Mazanec**, a sweet Easter bread. It is a round loaf made of yeast dough with almonds and raisins (rum soaked), and often served at breakfast with some butter and jam. Usually has a mark of a cross.

In many parts of the Czech Republic, you may find **Easter Buns** (Velikonoční jidášky) also known as **Judas' Rope**. According to the tradition, honey is spread on them and eaten on Green Thursday morning before the sun rises.

On Easter Saturday, when the Lent ends and following tradition, **Stuffed Meat** (Velikonoční Nádivka) is prepared. This stuffing is filled with fresh green herbs or young nettles that symbolize Spring and the awakening of nature.



Easter Lamb



Mazanec



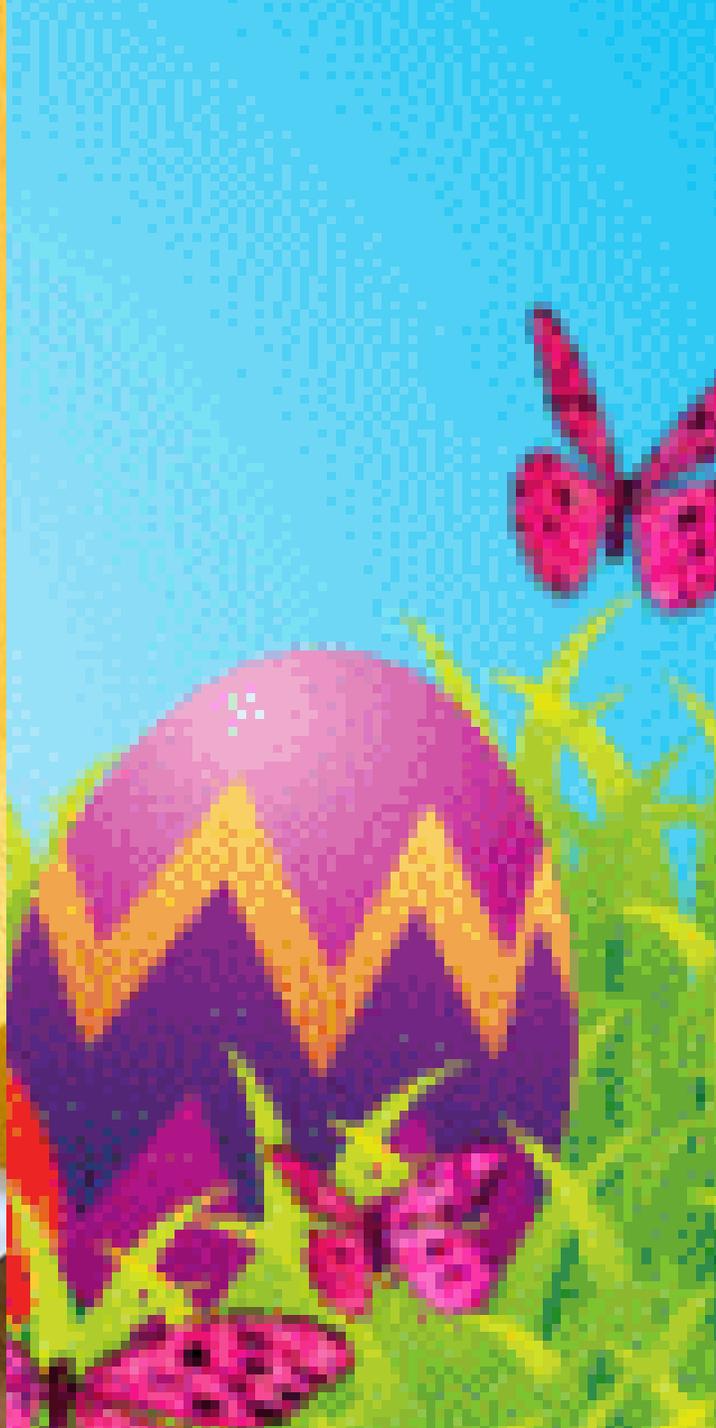
Easter Buns



Meat Stuffing



*Happy
Veselé Velikonoce!
Easter!*



Are there any Questions or Comments regarding tonight's program?

We hope you enjoyed tonight's program and will join us next month on March 10.

Kim Znamenacek will be presenting: Traditional Kroje, Sewing and Embroidery