

Tridentine Rite Parish

*Easter's Mass can be followed in:
The Roman Catholic Daily Missal p. 596, or
The Roman Missal(1962) p. 629*

*The Solemnity of Solemnities:
Easter Day 2007*

Fr John Mulcahy, by the Litynsky Family

Easter Monday 12pm Mirga Diane Babin, by David & Patty Pietrusza

Easter Wednesday 12pm Vermillion Gross, by Al & Mary Mertz

Easter Thursday 12pm Lena Dobrucki, by Jack & Janet Danahy

PECULIAR CUSTOMS OF EASTER TIME

1. Risus Paschalis

This strange custom originated in Bavaria in the fifteenth century. The priest inserted in his sermon funny stories which would cause his hearers to laugh (*Ostermärlein*), e.g. a description of how the devil tries to keep the doors of hell locked against the descending Christ. Then the speaker would draw the moral from the story. This Easter laughter, giving rise to grave abuses of the word of God, was prohibited by Clement X (1670-1676) and in the eighteenth century by Maximilian III and the bishops of Bavaria (Wagner, *De Risu Paschali*, Königsberg, 1705; Linsemeier, *Predigt in Deutschland*, Munich, 1886).

2. Easter Eggs

Because the use of eggs was forbidden during Lent, they were brought to the table on Easter Day, colored red to symbolize the Easter joy. This custom is found not only in the Latin but also in the Oriental Churches. The symbolic meaning of a new creation of mankind by Jesus risen from the dead was probably an invention of later times. The custom may have its origin in paganism, for a great many pagan customs, celebrating the return of spring, gravitated to Easter. The egg is the emblem of the germinating life of early spring. Easter eggs, the children are told, come from Rome with the bells which on Thursday go to Rome and return Saturday morning. The sponsors in some countries give Easter eggs to their god-children. Colored eggs are used by children at Easter in a sort of game which consists in testing the strength of the shells (Kraus, *Real-Encyklop die*, s. v. Ei). Both colored and uncolored eggs are used in some parts of the United States for this game, known as "egg-picking". Another practice is the "egg-rolling" by children on Easter Monday on the lawn of the White House in Washington.

3. The Easter Rabbit

The Easter Rabbit lays the eggs, for which reason they are hidden in a nest or in the garden. The rabbit is a pagan symbol and has always been an emblem of fertility (Simrock, *Mythologie*, 551).

