

Why Red Eggs?

See the below excerpt from St. John the Baptist's, (Canonsburg) bulletin:

Since time immemorial, eggs have been associated with our celebration of Pascha. Tradition holds that this is because of a miracle worked through St. Mary Magdalene: after Christ's Ascension, she went to Rome to preach the Gospel. Boldly going before the Emperor Tiberias, she proclaimed Christ's Resurrection to him; however, she would not go to the Emperor empty-handed, and so she brought eggs with her as a gift. He scoffed at her, saying that a man could no more rise from the dead than the egg in her hand could turn red. Immediately, to the amazement of the Emperor, the egg turned red, which she then used to preach Christ's Resurrection to him: we are redeemed from the vanity of life not with perishable silver or gold, but rather by the precious Blood of Christ, which brings new life as the egg brings forth a new life into the world; moreover, Christ is risen from the tomb, shattering the gates of hell - the bonds of sin, death, and the demons just as a chick breaks forth from its shell. Some historians credit this as to why the Emperor Tiberias was the only pagan Emperor not to persecute the Church.

In commemoration of this miracle, each person is given a red egg by the priest at the conclusion of the Paschal service, at the veneration of the Cross. We then crack these eggs together during the Agape Feast, celebrating Christ's crushing victory over hell and rejoicing together as we are blessed to return to the consumption of such rich foods!

As mentioned in today's bulletin, to enable us to keep this tradition, we are asking for volunteers to please take one or two dozen home, hard-boil them, and dye them red. One way this can be done is by boiling them in a pot with red onion peels. (Check with your grocery store to see they will let you grab a bag for free) or by using red food coloring. *Please return your dyed eggs to the parish hall's fridge by the Paschal service. Many thanks!*