

Easter Symbols Candy

BY JESSICA GORDON

Oh cherished cross! Through thee my most bitter trials are replete with graces!

— ST. PAUL OF THE CROSS

What are the various symbols of Easter? What do they mean, and what do they have to do with the resurrection of Our Lord? These symbolic chocolates provide a beautiful and yummy opportunity to share the meanings behind each of the following Easter symbols:

CROSS The cross is the most universal and oldest of all Christian symbols. It not only symbolizes Christ and our religion; it is also a symbol of our redemption won for us through Christ’s sacrifice on the cross.

BREAD OF LIFE Bread is the universal symbol for sustaining and nourishing life. It symbolizes God’s nurture and care of his people. The Israelites in the desert were fed manna from the heavens, prompting Moses to exclaim, “It is the bread which the Lord has given you to eat” (Exodus 16:15). Christ likened

himself to manna when after the miracle of the loaves, he spoke the words, “For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.’ So they said to him, ‘Sir, give us this bread always.’ Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst’” (John 6:33-35). Bread is also used at each Mass to become the body of Christ in keeping with the Lord’s command: “Then he took the bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, ‘This is my body,

which will be given for you; do this in memory of me” (Luke 22:19).

LAMB The lamb is also a symbol of Christ. In the Old Testament lambs were often sacrificed on an altar to expiate sins. Because Christ was sent as a sacrifice for the sins of the world, Christians refer to him as “the Lamb of God” (in Latin, *Agnus Dei* see John 1:29), and “the Paschal Lamb” (Exodus 12: 3-14) from whose sacrifice shelters the people of God.

LILY The lily symbolizes purity. Its stoic structure, pure white color, and



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enter into the deep mystery of Holy Eucharist, and to worship the elevated body and blood of Christ at the altar. More recently they have been used to herald the election of a new pope. Bells from local church towers also ring as reminders of the faithful within earshot to engage in daily prayer devotions. The Angelus Bell rung at 6 a.m., noon, and 6 p.m. calls upon the faithful to pray the Angelus. Some areas ring a De Profundis (a Latin term meaning “from the depths”) bell to pray for the faithful departed. Bells are another aid for the Christian to converse with God. In some countries the bells are silent from Holy Thursday until Easter Sunday. In the middle ages farmers would comfort their families by saying, “The bells have flown to Rome, but they’ll come back on Easter!”

MATERIALS NEEDED

- * Easter symbols printable
- * Scissors and/or circle punch
- * Wrapped chocolate coins, 8 each
- * Drawstring pouch or clear treat bag
- * Glue stick

delicately sweet aroma attribute to qualities of royalty, purity, and chastity. It is the symbolic flower of the Blessed Virgin Mary and is sometimes depicted with other saints who possess these qualities. A lily among thorns represents the Immaculate Conception, as the purity of the Virgin is preserved among the fallen nature of the world. Legend says that the lily originated from Eve’s tears when she and Adam were banished from the Garden of Eden. Another legend claims that lilies sprang up from the ground when drops of blood fell to the foot of the cross. During the Easter season, many churches line the altars with Easter lilies to signify the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the hope of eternal life.

EGG The egg represents the Resurrection. Like the tomb of the crucified Savior, the egg encloses a self-supported life. At the appointed time, a new and glorious life within bursts forth from its enclosure.

BUTTERFLY The butterfly is also a symbol of the resurrection of Christ, but moreover the resurrection of man, as Christ promises us. The three stages in its life (caterpillar, chrysalis, and butterfly) can be attributed to the three stages

of man’s existence (life, death, and resurrection).

PEACOCK Christians have used peacocks as the symbol of immortality; they are an ancient symbol of the Resurrection. Legend tells that the flesh of the peacock never corrupts. The peacock is often depicted in Christian art such as in “The Adoration of the Magi” by Fra Angelico and Fra Filippo Lippi and other nativity scenes.

BELLS To the Christian, bells function as a summons to worship. They may be rung at the procession before Mass, at the Sanctus to call the faithful to





WITH THE CLASS

1. Cut out Easter symbol images using scissors or circle punch.
2. While explaining each of the various Easter symbols, have the children glue the images onto the chocolate coins.
3. Place the Easter symbols candy into a draw-string pouch or clear treat bag.

LET US PRAY

*God's blessing rest upon you
This happy Easter Day.
God make his joy to shine
As sunlight on your way;
God fill your heart with song
So glad it will not cease;
God bless you every day
With love and joy and peace.*



Jessica Gordon blogs at ShowerOfRoses.blogspot.com and CatholicCuisine.blogspot.com.

—EASTER PRAYER

Easter Symbol Chocolate Coins

