

Easter Traditions in Romania

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- The greatest celebration of the Romanians is the Easter celebration. It is preceded by 40 days of fasting, in which Christians prepare spiritually to meet the great feast.
- At midnight, the Resurrection service is done. The people go to church with candles to light them from the priest's candle. In the church it is dark, people are waiting the moment when the priest comes out of the altar with the lit candle and says three times: "Come and take light!" Then all the people take the Holy Light and the priest says, "Christ has Risen!" And the people from the church respond: "He is truly Risen!" (Ana Ghiaur) -photo1
- The Liturgy of the Resurrection lasted about two hours, after which all those present were given myrrh oil by the priest and received the pieces of holy bread sprinkled with wine. Then they go to their houses, carrying the Holy Light with them. (Andruşa R. VătuIU) -photo2
- The next day of Easter, the people go to the cemetery, in traditional clothes, where there is a memorial service for the deceased. After the liturgy, the candles are lit on the tombs again, the pictures are taken, and after the meal, at the evening, special prayers are performed, singing "Christ has Risen!" (Ana Ghiaur) -photo3
- The meal that joins the entire family on this Holy Day is accompanied by the joy of reunion, to be together in family, to teach future generations the moral values that support each Christian family. These have been "added" as an ingredient in the dishes that have been dearly prepared for this wonderful event. -photo4, photo5, photo6
- Along with dyed eggs, sweet bread and cakes, the lamb has been prepared in various ways. Below we choose to present the lamb soup recipe. Choose from the body of the lamb, the neck part of the head and pieces of meat which we wash and bring them to a boil, then drain the water and along with carrots, parsley, pasta, root, onion and finely sliced garlic we put them to a new boil. Once it has reached the boiling temperature, add a can of rice and let it boil. After everything has been boiled add a pinch of salt and pepper and add a pinch of salt and pepper and add fresh leaves of chopped lovage. (Cristina Erdei)-photo7, photo8, photo9, photo10
- Dyeing Easter Eggs Naturally, Using Onion Skins. The eggs are painted differently from a region of Romania to another. Red paint symbolizes Jesus' blood and it's the traditional color. Nowadays Easter eggs are painted in many other colors. Orange, brown or yellow eggs are painted using everyday ingredients. The natural dye materials can be onion skins, beetroot or even red cabbage. I usually put the onion skins in enough hot water to cover them, using a nonstick spoon. I pour the amount of water needed for the dye into a large pot. I always make some decorations using parsley leaves. I wrap the parsley leaves around the egg, pull the nylon stocking over one hand and place the egg over it carefully, to keep the leaves from folding. Then you have to invert the stocking over the egg then tighten and twist at the base. All you need to do then is to tie a string around, to secure the stocking. When the boiled eggs are ready, you have to bring the dye to a boil, add one tablespoon of vinegar and stir it into the dye, then stop boiling the liquid. Add the eggs one by one, making sure they are fully submerged. Let them in

the dye as long as you need for the eggs take the shade you want, then remove them from water, let them cool a little and cut away the stocking. Wipe the parsley leaves with a paper towel and put the eggs on it. I rub each egg with cotton wool soaked in a little oil to give it a nice shine. (Daniela Văleanu)

- Now, you can wait for the moment to knock the eggs together end-to-end, on Easter day. It's a tradition of breaking the Easter eggs: Two eggs are cracked together, the first person saying, "Christ has risen!," ("Hristos a înviat") and the second person saying, "He's risen indeed!" ("Adevărat a înviat!")- photo11, photo12, photo13, photo14

Let God help us celebrate healthy many Happy Easters and let our souls to reach Heaven!