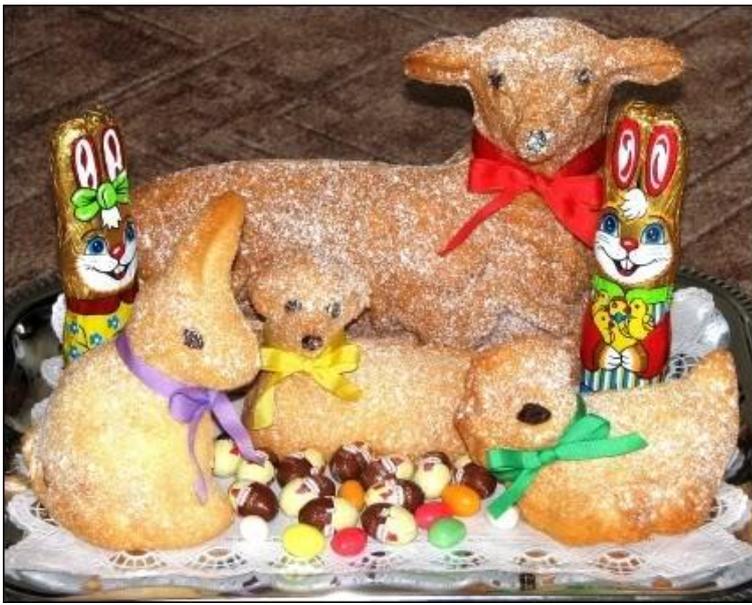


Traditions

Easter

It is the most famous catholic festival. It is because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Historically it is a festival of spring. It lasts three days – from Green Thursday, Big Friday to White Saturday. In these days people should eat nothing with meat.

This festival is time of celebration and happiness.



In Czech Republic there are many habits connected with this festival, for example baking an easter lamb or easter hare. People also used to bake easter bun and make an easter stuffing.

We usually paint easter eggs. This is "work" for women. They paint them with the wax or painting colours. There are many ways of painting eggs. When boys come to girls with homemade whip, what is many of willow wands plaited together, they pat the girls with the whip on their buttocks. It is because of girls helth. Boys wants girls to be healthy. Then women give eggs boys, usually with some chocolate cookies.

The easter Sunday is the first Sunday after the first spring full moon.



Burning of the witches

It is very old but still traditional current festival. This festival is celebrated also in other countries for example in Germany, Finland, Estonia or Sweden. It is celebrated on 30th April.

During the day is built cherry tree, mostly it is partly covered by colourful bows. In the evening are people situated around huge bonfires,

sometimes the bonfires are 8 metres tall. On the top of the fire pyramid is mask of a witch. People are in black or have dark clothes and some girl wears mask of witch. Children play some games and other people eat grilled sausages and drink for example beer.



In the past were bonfires like these again the bad ghost usually, witches are specific for the present. The ashes of the fires have special power to raise crops. Sometimes jumping over the fire in order to ensure youth and fertility .

The following day, first May, is celebrated like the day of those in love. Girls should be kissed under the cherry tree, they „will not dry up“. The kiss should bring the beauty for the girl for all the year. In Czech Republic it is sometimes more important festival than the saint Valentine.