

THE HOLY BREAD (The Korban)

The korban is the special bread used for the Holy Mass for the transubstantiation into the Holy body of our lord Jesus Christ.

For the honour of this bread, the Church decided a certain procedure and ingredients for this bread reflecting several symbols and meanings related to our lord Jesus Christ.

The ingredients of the bread

1. It is made of pure white refined flour, for Christ is the perfect pure person who has no sin or any impurities.
2. there is no salt added to this bread, because the salt is usually used to give good taste to the food and Jesus said about the believers “you are the salt of the earth” Matt 5:13, so He as the God and the completely perfect one, does not need any salt to make Him tasty because He is already tasty by Himself and He gives taste and meaning to all the existents.
3. There should be included yeast and it should be a leavened bread, although the yeast in general is a symbol for the sin, and in the old testament God ordered Moses during the Passover and the week before not to keep any yeast in their homes as it is a symbol for the sin....(Exd 12:15). So why now this Holy Bread should have yeast??.

The answer is that this bread is representing the Lord Jesus who carried all our sins, and moreover when the bread is put into the Furnace, the effect of the yeast stops, and so, this symbolizes that through the passions of Lord Jesus and His crucifixion, He killed the sin and stopped its effect in our life, and that He was the only sinless person.

4. Of course also the furnace is a symbol for the passions and tortures to which He was subjected and also for the cross and the pains that he suffered on it. Also the lamb used for the Passover (which was a symbol for the Lord Jesus the lamb of God) used to be roasted with fire and eaten with bitter herbs (Exd 12:8) prophesying about what will the lamb of God suffer on the cross both physically and inferiorly.

How the bread is made?

1. the church recommended that through all the stages of making this bread starting from mixing the flour with water till when taken out of the oven, the psalms should be read, because the psalms have many prophecies about Lord Jesus through all the stages of His life on earth beginning from His incarnation, nativity, baptism, behaviour, attitude, preaching, temptation, suffering, crucifixion, death, burial, resurrection, ascension into the heavens, transfiguration and all his acts and powerful miracles...

So they are read accompanying the different stages of making the bread till it comes fresh as they contain prophecies about the different stages in Lord Jesus' life on the earth.

2. The bread should be made fresh for every Holy Mass because God is always present and He is over the authority of time and He never gets old.
3. It is made circular and round in shape because it will be converted into the Body of Christ who is eternal and has no start or end.

What are the special characteristics of this bread?

1. It is stamped with a special stamp having one big cross in the middle surrounded by 12 small crosses. The central part having the big cross is called "the Espadicon" which means the master part and it symbolizes Lord Jesus Christ Himself and the surrounding 12 small crosses symbolize His 12 disciples.
2. There are 5 holes made in this bread, 3 on the right side and 2 on the left side of the bread, and these are symbolizing the 5 main big injuries in the body of Christ, the two nails in either hands, the nail joining the two feet, the crown of thorns and the piercing with the spear.
3. Around these crosses at their edges, it is stamped the words "Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal" of course honouring and praising God's power and mighty and immortality in spite of all the suffering and pains that He had through His wounds, and according to the tradition, these are the words spoken by Joseph the rich man from Arimathea who asked Pilate for the body of Jesus (Mat 27:57-

60) and during the burial, Lord Jesus opened His eyes and looked to Joseph, so Joseph the Arimathian amazed by this look from the dead body of Jesus praised Him saying this sentence “Holy God, Holy mighty, Holy immortal” to confess that although the body is dead but He is still alive and He can never die.

During the fraction in the Holy Mass, the priest fractions the bread transubstantiated to the Holy Body of Christ into 12 fractions.

Those 12 fractions form the whole body of Christ, and understanding that the church is the body of Christ, then this symbolizes that the church was formed and founded by the 12 apostles who preached by the Lords Jesus Christ. And as the 12 fractions are all surrounding the Master part “Espadicon” and they are all directed towards it, then also all the preaching of the apostles was centred and focused on the Lord Jesus Christ.

The same also in the Old Testament, when the Israelians were in the desert, and each tribe took its place, they were directed in the same way 3 tribes on each side around the tent of meeting which was the place where God used to come and speak to Moses.