

Spring is just about upon us and our thoughts turn to budding trees and flowers, pastel colors and Easter. Easter is the time of year when Christians celebrate the resurrection of Christ. It has also become the second largest top-selling candy holiday of the year. Americans spend \$1.9 billion dollars a year on Easter candy.

Easter eggs and chocolate are popular candies found in Easter baskets. The symbol of the egg began as a pagan symbol representing fertility and rebirth. It became altered in, the Christian Easter festivities, to represent the resurrection of Jesus Christ after His crucifixion. During the 1800's the first chocolate Easter eggs appeared in Germany and France and soon spread to all of Europe. They grew in popularity and by the 20th century became the primary Easter candy throughout the world.

In the 1930's, the already popular Jelly Bean was added to the Easter candy list. Because of the egg-like shape they became associated with the Easter bunny, which became popular after the Civil War. The Jelly Beans became a symbol of new life during the Easter season.

Today, many people are involved in making their own favorite Easter candy. Here at Grandma's Pantry, we keep our shelves stocked with candy making supplies to meet your every need. Whether you are an old hand at making candy or just starting out, we can help you to make that special Easter candy.

The possibilities for chocolate supplies are many - from Merckens coating wafers Wilbur bars of milk, dark and white chocolate. We carry every color of the rainbow in our Merckens line as well as many different kinds of candy molds. You can also purchase Paramount crystals if you prefer to smooth down your chocolate. For those of you who like to make Easter eggs with rolled centers, we carry many flavors of fondant including coconut, peanut butter, raspberry, peppermint and maple nut. Caramel loaf is another available option for your candy pleasure.

We also carry many of the necessary supplies for your candy making - paper candy cups, sucker sticks, silver and gold foil wrappers, and Easter-themed window boxes (1/2 lb and 1/4 lb).

For those of you who aren't into making candy but are looking for candy goodies to fill those Easter baskets, we always stock a special supply of Easter-themed candy. We have lots of choices of jelly beans including Jelly Belly, spiced, fruit flavored, licorice, cinnamon, and the ever-popular pectin jelly beans.

If you are baking special cookies and cakes that you would like to decorate in the Easter colors or themes, we have pastel sanding sugars, nonpareils and decorettes to meet your needs.

Easter is a special time of year for many of us. Children are excited about Easter egg hunts, Easter baskets and Easter dinner with family and friends. We at Grandma's Pantry would like to remind everyone to consider the most important aspect of Easter - what Easter is really all about. It is the time when we should reflect on what was done for us so many years ago on the cross by Jesus Christ, Who rose from the dead and paid the penalty for the sin of those who repent and trust completely in Him as Lord and Savior. May you have a blessed Resurrection holiday.

“So, whatever you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” (I Cor. 10:31)