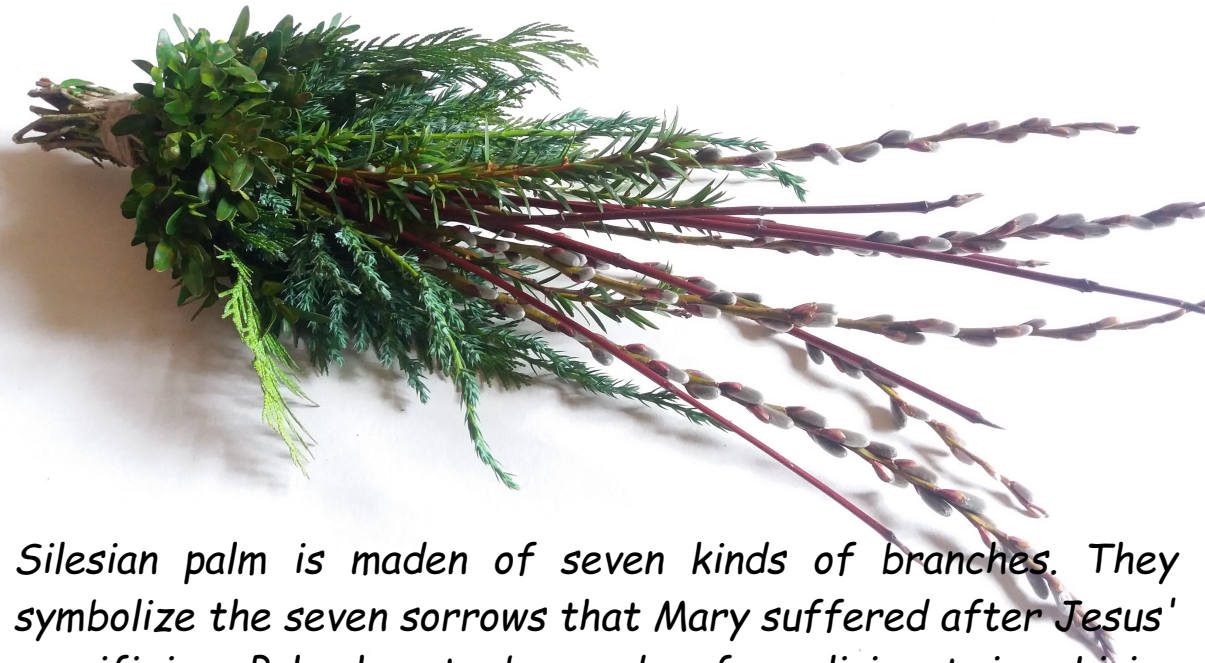


SILESIAN PALM



Silesian palm is made of seven kinds of branches. They symbolize the seven sorrows that Mary suffered after Jesus' crucifixion. Palm has to be made from living twigs. Living twigs are the symbol of life rebirth. Blessed palms protect the house and the household.

Twigs with spikes are the symbol of thorns crown. There is a custom of eating willow catkins after blessing a palm. This protects against a sore throat and a stomachache.

The red branches are the symbol of the shed blood. Red branches are made into small crosses and hidden in various places. Thanks to them, God will bless the places where the crosses will be.

The powder from last year's palm twigs is used to sprinkle the heads of the faithful on Ash Wednesday.

