



## Special Occasions Cooking and Christmas

When it comes to cooking for Christmas, many a hostess discover that they drop the ball in anticipation and feel as though the moment was ruined. While this is often far from the truth, it does serve to diminish the moment in many of their minds. For this reason, you need to work up a repertoire, if you will, of simple to make Christmas cooking recipes.

You will be shocked and amazed at all the sinfully rich and delicious meals and side dishes that are out there, that are amazingly quick and easy to prepare. This means that you will not run the all too common disaster scenarios that you hear about and will still manage to have a wonderful meal that is enjoyed by all.

The trick is in choosing a rather simple meat dish and dressing it up with more decadent side dishes. Deliciously rich side dishes that are simple to prepare are greater in number than meat dishes that require little culinary effort. You should also keep in mind the audience for your Christmas meal. Sometimes a family favorite makes the occasion seem much more special than an all out effort for *chicken cordon bleu* or *veal Marsala*. There is no point in going to an extreme effort to create a culinary masterpiece if it is going to be riddled with picky children proclaiming that they do not like this or that about your meal.

Another great idea when it comes to cooking your special Christmas dinner is to prepare as much as possible ahead of time in order to alleviate the pressure during the event and to allow you more time to enjoy the event rather than dealing with the details of meal preparation. The greatest gift you can really give yourself when cooking for Christmas is the time necessary in order to enjoy the special occasion. This is not to say that there isn't some cooking that will need to be done.

Foods that can be prepared ahead of time and reheated just prior to serving are often the best when it comes to cooking Christmas dinners. There are all kinds of appetizers, entrees, and desserts that will work perfectly in this particular instance. You can often find them by performing a simple Google search

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online or by sorting through many of your favorite cookbooks at home. The important thing is that you do not get so caught up in the idea of cooking for Christmas that you forget to actually enjoy the occasion.

If this is not the way you prefer to do things that is perfectly understandable. Some of us do thrive in high stress situations. The key for those who prefer to do all the meal preparation at the time of cooking, when cooking for Christmas, is planning properly and allowing plenty of time for possible hiccups in the process. Mistakes occur when people feel rushed and hurried in their culinary efforts.

Another common mistake that is made when cooking for Christmas is cooking outside of your comfort zone. When you are preparing a challenging recipe it is best if you do this during a time when you are not going through the stress of potential visitors or insuring the best possible of circumstances. In other words, it is best to challenge your culinary talents when you do not have a vested interest in success.

Christmas is a great time for friends and family. The hope is that you will have many more Christmas celebrations throughout your life. Do not waste too much time and energy fretting over cooking for Christmas. Instead, put all of your effort into enjoying Christmas!

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