

'Staff of Life' Dons Three Christmas Dresses for Holidays

Most homes have only one breadwinner. But this Christmas you can have three bread winners—three Christmas breads in three traditional Christmas shapes from one basic bread dough—winners all.

The homemaker who has never made bread is to be envied. She has before her an experience both exciting and satisfying. Today's modern methods have removed the "trouble" of making home baked bread, leaving only the "fun" of preparation. Handling yeast dough is really more fun than any other "cooking." You are dealing with a substance that springs to life in a silky smooth elasticity as you knead it. And there is a deep, centuries-old satisfaction in molding it into attractive shapes and decorating it whichever way your creative urge desires.

The Christmas candy cane, wreath and tree, depend on Brazil nuts and maraschino cherries for their colorful decorations. Since Brazil nuts are

so versatile, they can produce completely different effects simply by being chopped or sliced.

Accomplishing these decorating feats is easy if you know how to go about extracting the Brazil nut from its shell without crushing the nut meat in the process. There are two simple methods. One requires placing them in the freezer compartment of your refrigerator for a few hours or overnight. The shell becomes brittle with this method and so cracks easily, yielding the nut meat whole. Should you not have time to utilize this method, try the following. Place Brazil nuts in pan of water, bring to a boil and let simmer a few minutes. Drain, let cool, and crack. Again, the nut meat will be easily removed from its shell.

Sliced Brazil nuts are perfect for decorating both the Christmas tree and the wreath. You can get a holly effect on the wreath by using sliced Brazil nuts as the leaves and cherries

as the holly berry. Alternate chopped nuts and cherries to create the striped candy-cane effect.

Christmas Brazil Nut Breads

1 package active dry yeast
2 1/2 cup warm water
1 small can (3/4 cup) evaporated milk
1/2 cup sugar
5 to 6 cups sifted all-purpose flour, divided
2 eggs
1/2 cup soft butter or margarine
1 cup mixed candied fruit
1 cup chopped Brazil nuts
1/2 cup raisins
1 teaspoon grated lemon rind, optional

Dissolve yeast in warm water in large mixing bowl according to package directions. Stir in evaporated milk, sugar, salt and 2 cups of the flour. Beat until smooth. Stir in eggs, butter, fruit, nuts and lemon rind. Beat in remaining flour, a little at a time, just until dough begins to clean sides of bowl. Turn dough onto lightly floured surface; knead until smooth and elastic. Form into a ball and place in a large greased bowl. Cover and let rise until double in bulk (1 hour). Punch down and divide dough in 3 equal parts. Shape as follows:

Wreath:
Roll dough with hands into 24-inch length. Shape into a circle on baking sheet and seal ends together.

Candy Cane:
Roll dough with hands into 24-inch length. Shape into a cane on baking sheet.

Christmas Tree:
Roll dough with hands into

30-inch length. Cut into lengths 8-inches, 7-inches, 6-inches, 4-inches, 3-inches and 2-inches. Put 8-inch length on baking sheet. Center 7-inch length next to 8-inch length; center 6-inch length next to 7-inch length; repeat with 4-inch length. Shape

3-inch length into a triangle and place at top of tree. Use 2-inch length for base of tree. Cover shaped dough and let rise in a warm place until double in bulk (about 45 minutes). Bake in a moderate oven (350° F.) 25 to 30 minutes, or

until golden brown. Cool. Frost with Glaze* and decorate with Brazil nuts and cherries.

YIELD: 3 Christmas breads.

*To make Glaze, combine 2 cups sifted confectioners' sugar and 2 tablespoons water or lemon juice. Stir until smooth.



Three In One Three traditional Christmas shapes can be made from one basic bread dough. Divide and shape into a Christmas tree, a wreath, and a candy cane. Decorating is a simple process with Brazil nuts and maraschino cherries.

Salad Dressing

For a simple basic salad dressing that's delicious on any "slaw" combination: Combine 1/2 cup of sour cream with a dash of pepper, 1 1/2 tsp. sugar, 3/4 tsp. cider vinegar, and 1/4 tsp. prepared mustard.

Baking Day Hint

Want to steady that mixing bowl while you are beating a cake batter or some other mixture? Place the bowl on a folded towel on the counter or table of your mixing centre.

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'Dear Abby'
—Abigail Van Buren—

DEAR ABBY: I am married to an outdoor man. In the summer it's fishing and in the winter it's hunting. Don't get me wrong. I want him to enjoy life, but is it asking too much of him to spend ONE Sunday a month with me and the children? I would like him to take us to a movie and have dinner out once a month. He leaves every Saturday at sun-up and doesn't come back until late on Sunday. Then he hands me the car keys and says, "Here—take the kids to a show so I can sleep." Am I being unreasonable?

SPORTSMAN'S WIFE

DEAR WIFE: Not in my opinion. How about this approach: "Look, Dear, if you don't want to waste any of your spare time on me, that's OK. I'll always be around, both wiser and sadder. But the kids are growing up and away from you. Soon they'll be gone. You'll have memories of hunting and fishing, but none of your family. That'll be an open space in your life that you won't like. Think it over before it's too late."

DEAR ABBY: What is your opinion of a woman who works out when she has 4 children at home under the age of 5?

WONDERING

DEAR WONDERING: She is either desperately and unfortunately eager to get out of the house, or she desperately and unfortunately needs the income.

DEAR ABBY: A few years after my marriage I came down with polio. I was left with a slight disability which slowed me down a little. I can still do my own housework, although somewhat awkwardly. For years my mother-in-law (who was a fast worker) would come in and, if I was sweeping, she would take the broom from my hands and say, "Let's get this done!" Not wanting to hurt her feelings because I knew she meant well, I said nothing but I felt like crying.

Now I see the same thing happening to a friend who has another kind of crippling disease. Only it's her mother who tries to help her. My friend was drying her dishes and broke a cup. Her mother sat her down, took the towel and said, "Let me do it or you won't have any dishes left!" I knew how it must have hurt. Please print this, Abby. There are so many who mean well but don't know better.

SLOW WORKER

DEAR ABBY: We have a 7-year-old daughter who is a very lonely and quiet child. She has no friends. I am unable to have any more children and want to adopt a little girl the same age as our own. My husband thinks it would be better to adopt a child a few years younger. And a boy! I can't see where this would provide our daughter with the companionship she needs. Can you advise me? Or perhaps some of your readers have some helpful opinions on the subject.

MRS. F.

DEAR MRS. F.: I agree with your husband. To force a "twin" on your daughter at her age could create problems of jealousy, rivalry and continual competition for both girls. Try for a younger child. And a boy might be just what the doctor ordered.

DEAR ABBY: There is a woman in our neighborhood who just burns all of us up. She has a child who attends the same school as mine (and three other neighbor children). But do you think she would consider being in our car pool? Not on your life. We have all asked her, but she says, "No, thank you. I do not want to be responsible for driving anyone else's child and I don't need anyone to drive mine." She goes right past my house every morning on her way to school and she picks up her child every evening. What makes this woman so selfish?

CAN'T GET OVER IT

DEAR CAN'T: Maybe she was in a car pool once.

What's on your mind? For a personal reply, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Abby, Box 3365, Beverly Hills, Calif.

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