

A sweet parade: Maureen McCormick hosts 'Macy's Thanksgiving Cake Spectacular'

By Michelle Rose
TV Media

There are parades, and then there's Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

This year marks the 95th anniversary of the Big Apple tradition that officially kicks off the eating, er, holiday season. And there's something magical about seeing all those floats, marching bands and giant balloons making their way down 6th Avenue toward Macy's flagship store on 34th Street in New York City.

(Fun fact: Macy's Herald Square was the first building in the world to be equipped with modern escalators. You can still ride the original wooden ones up to Santaland, or up one more floor to the couches, if you're in town.)

But let's talk food. Food Network has invited four top bakers to compete in the second edition

of "Macy's Thanksgiving Cake Spectacular," airing Sunday, Nov. 17. And as the title suggests, they'll be tasked with creating their best cake-and-sugar tribute to the annual spectacular.

The one-hour special debuted last year with lifestyle maven Martha Stewart as the host. In addition to the competition, viewers were treated to a sneak peek of the preparations at Macy's Parade Studio in New Jersey, where all the floats, balloons and costumes are readied until the day before the parade.

(Another fact: No matter its final size, each float must be able to fit through the Lincoln Tunnel — the same one Buddy the Elf walked through in 2003's "Elf" — to reach the parade route. The floats are reconstructed overnight near the starting point on the Upper West Side.)

The culinary torch has been passed and this year's host is Maureen McCormick of "The

Brady Bunch" fame. With 12 days to go until Turkey Day and the parade, McCormick will help get you into the holiday spirit while competitors try to impress judges Buddy Valastro ("Cake Boss"), Susan Tercero (executive producer of Macy's parade) and last season's winner, Timbo Sullivan.

The winning cake artist will be awarded a grand prize of \$10,000 and a feature spot at Macy's Herald Square.

They'll also get tickets to the parade, which may seem odd given the opportunities for free public viewing along the route. But these are grandstand tickets, which aren't available to the public. In fact, they're limited to friends and family members of parade participants and Macy's partners, and, of course, the winner of Food Network's "Macy's Thanksgiving Cake Spectacular." Tune in on Nov. 17 to find out who it will be.



Buddy Valastro is a judge on "Macy's Thanksgiving Cake Spectacular"

cooking this week

WEDNESDAY

4:00 p.m.

FOOD Guy's Grocery Games Fried-food fanatics take on Guy's deep-fried games. (CC)

5:00 p.m.

FOOD Guy's Grocery Games Guy's dice decide the details of the chefs blue plate. (CC)

6:00 p.m.

FOOD Guy's Grocery Games The chefs prepare a lunch under a \$10 budget. (CC)

7:00 p.m.

FOOD Guy's Grocery Games Kids take on Flavortown with Guy Fieri. (CC)

8:00 p.m.

FOOD Guy's Grocery Games A three-round Thanksgiving family showdown. (CC)

THURSDAY

4:00 p.m.

FOOD Beat Bobby Flay A BBQ fusion master and an over-the-top chef compete. (CC)

4:30 p.m.

FOOD Beat Bobby Flay The Iron Chef will step into the arena again. (CC)

5:00 p.m.

FOOD Beat Bobby Flay A Dutch chef and a Greek chef compete. (CC)

5:30 p.m.

FOOD Beat Bobby Flay Branden Levine and Damon Gordon face off. (CC)

6:00 p.m.

FOOD Ultimate Thanksgiving Challenge Five chefs take re-invent a classic Thanksgiving side. (CC)

7:00 p.m.

FOOD Ultimate Thanksgiving Challenge The chefs turn Thanksgiving sweet pies into a side. (CC)

8:00 p.m.

FOOD Ultimate Thanksgiving Challenge The last two chefs must make a full Thanksgiving meal. (CC)

FRIDAY

4:00 p.m.

FOOD Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives Guy checks out places in L.A. and Toronto. (CC)

4:30 p.m.

FOOD Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives Guy visits joints that are keeping it fresh. (CC)

5:00 p.m.

FOOD Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives Visiting restaurants in Virginia and Texas. (CC)

5:30 p.m.

FOOD Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives Menu includes sammies, lobster and burgers. (CC)

6:00 p.m.

OPB Field Trip With Curtis Stone Curtis heads up coast to uncover jewels of the Pacific. (CC)

FOOD Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives Guy discovers a brunch spot where kids volunteer. (CC)

6:30 p.m.

FOOD Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives A Chicago brewery serves up beer to go with mussels. (CC)

7:00 p.m.

FOOD Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives Guy travels to Charleston, Chicago and Honolulu. (CC)

7:30 p.m.

FOOD Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives Guy Fieri enjoys a turkey dinner at a Boston joint. (CC)

8:00 p.m.

FOOD Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives Guy's chasing down the holiday meal every which way. (CC)

SATURDAY

Noon

FOOD Trisha's Southern Kitchen (N) Trisha and her sister return to Nashville Food Project. (CC)

12:30 p.m.

FOOD Guy's Ranch Kitchen (N) Guy invites some of his favorite chefs to the ranch. (CC)

1:00 p.m.

OPB Christopher Kimball's Milk Street (CC)

FOOD Holiday Baking Championship Holiday spiced nuts inspires the challenge. (CC)

1:30 p.m.

KTNW tasteMAKERS Small batch oils from nuts and seeds at Oliver Farm. (CC)

OPB America's Test Kitchen From Cook's Illustrated Bridget and Julia share the secret to crispy tacos. (CC)

2:00 p.m.

OPB Cook's Country From America's Test Kitchen Natalie Estrada makes a classic roast beef tenderloin. (CC)

FOOD Christmas Cookie Challenge Talented cookie makers strive for the spotlight. (CC)

2:30 p.m.

OPB Martha Bakes Learn how three famous cookies got their names. (CC)

3:00 p.m.

KTNW Cook's Country From America's Test Kitchen Cast iron baked chicken is prepared. (CC)

FOOD Holiday Baking Championship Judges welcome runner-up teams from previous seasons. (CC)

3:30 p.m.

KTNW Food Over 50 (CC)

4:00 p.m.

FOOD Holiday Baking Championship Four talented bakers celebrate Christmas twice a year. (CC)

5:00 p.m.

FOOD Holiday Baking Championship Nine bakers create an unusual candy cane flavor. (CC)

6:00 p.m.

OPB Confucius Was a Foodie (CC)

FOOD Holiday Baking Championship Bakers make a dozen hand pies in festive shapes. (CC)

7:00 p.m.

KTNW The Great British Baking Show Find out who will be crowned the winner. (CC)

FOOD Holiday Baking Championship Bakers create a dessert with canned fruit. (CC)

8:00 p.m.

FOOD Holiday Baking Championship Bakers make anything but cake inspired by a meme. (CC)

SUNDAY

Noon

FOOD Barefoot Contessa (N) Traditional Thanksgiving dinner dishes a modern twist. (CC)

12:30 p.m.

FOOD Giada's Holiday Handbook (N) Giada throws a harvest-themed festival for neighbors. (CC)

1:00 p.m.

FOOD The Kitchen Special guests join a 'friendsgiving' dinner. (CC)

2:00 p.m.

KTNW America's Home Cooking: Stuffed Chris Fennimore explores stuffed foods. (CC)

FOOD Ultimate Thanksgiving Challenge A Thanksgiving spin on a classic dish. (CC)

3:00 p.m.

FOOD Chopped Junior Turkey-themed baskets start the challenge off right. (CC)

4:00 p.m.

FOOD Chopped Chefs bring siblings into the kitchen for Thanksgiving. (CC)

5:00 p.m.

FOOD Ultimate Thanksgiving Challenge Five chefs take re-invent a classic Thanksgiving side. (CC)

6:00 p.m.

FOOD Ultimate Thanksgiving Challenge The chefs turn Thanksgiving sweet pies into a side. (CC)

6:30 p.m.

KVEW Chance of Wine (CC)

7:00 p.m.

FOOD Ultimate Thanksgiving Challenge The last two chefs must make a full Thanksgiving meal. (CC)

8:00 p.m.

FOOD Good Eats (N) Alton offers three turkey recipes. (CC)

MONDAY

4:00 p.m.

FOOD Holiday Baking Championship Bakers make anything but cake inspired by a meme. (CC)

5:00 p.m.

FOOD Holiday Baking Championship Bakers make a fiery dessert and unusual cheesecake. (CC)

6:00 p.m.

FOOD Holiday Baking Championship Bakers make Hanukkah doughnuts and reinvent fruitcake. (CC)

7:00 p.m.

FOOD Holiday Baking Championship The final bakers compete to be Holiday Baking Champion. (CC)

8:00 p.m.

FOOD Holiday Baking Championship: Merry Xtras (N) Holiday spiced nuts inspires the challenge. (CC)

TUESDAY

4:00 p.m.

FOOD Chopped The chefs create a Thanksgiving meal. (CC)

5:00 p.m.

FOOD Chopped A difficult protein to be paired with processed cheese. (CC)

6:00 p.m.

FOOD Chopped All leftovers in the baskets today. (CC)

7:00 p.m.

FOOD Chopped Featuring gizzards and pumpkin pie for dessert! (CC)

8:00 p.m.

FOOD Chopped Junior (N) The kid cooks give new life to Thanksgiving leftovers. (CC)

Pendleton East-Oregonian, OR: Food Nov 13, 2019 to Nov 19, 2019