Wrap Your Table in Christmas Glamour

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Wrap Your Table in Christmas Glamour

Increase festivity of the Christmas dinner with gay decorations, prescribes Nancy Mason

CENTER holiday cheer around the Christmas dinner! Combine tempting food and festive table decorations to insure a jovial spirit among feasters.

The Christmas season offers innumerable possibilities for table decorations. Use originality and apply art principles of design for sure success.

It is wise to study the holiday menu before deciding on a color scheme. Will the cranberry ice blend with Christmas red or will it appear a faded pink? Maybe the pine boughs will be an unattractive shade next to the pastel lime salad. It is important that the colors of the food and decorations be combined in pleasing harmony.

Although the center table decoration should be paramount, added adornments can be placed at each plate if they add unity and harmony to the picture. A small pine corsage tied with a bright red ribbon is a suggestion.

It is important that the center decoration be higher than others on the table. However, if this arrangement is too high, it will hinder cross-table conversation. Decorations which are too large tend to give a cluttered appearance. It is best to allow plenty of space for food.

A festoon of boughs and cones placed alternately the length of the table make a simple, attractive decoration. To give more color to the boughs, a bright red cellophane ribbon bow could be tied in the center and pulled tight so the ends of the boughs spread.

Candles add magic festivity to the table and candlelight is flattering to the guests. If one desires to make the above evergreen arrangement more elaborate, place white tapers in low holders at the four corners. Around each taper arrange four large red and white peppermint candy canes. Add a perky red bow.

The tinkling of bells, symbolic of this season, adds zest to a Christmas dinner. Listen to the squeals of delight from family and guests as they seat themselves at a table where small bells have been sewed to the hem of the cloth.

A novel container which makes an effective centerpiece is Santa's boot. It stands about five inches high and may be filled with pine sprays, cones and red berries or used as a holder for a large Christmas candle.

Adding sparkle to any table are silver, pewter or aluminum bowls filled with colored baubles and other holiday ornaments. They also can be used as containers for such flower arrangements as one of white carnations, bright red ilex berries and pine needle branches.

A gay Christmas table may be achieved with a simple modern tree made with five tin funnels. Invert the funnels one inside the other, beginning at the bottom with the largest one and decreasing the size as they ascend. Finish the top of the tree with a tin foil star.

Place it on a sheet of silver foil, cellophane or a mirror; use with two or four star salad moulds as candle holders. Silver candles will carry out the shiny effect.

Small tables are often more difficult to decorate due to lack of space. Make a halo from heavy wire for a madonna vase. Hold this halo in place by leaving a long piece of wire at the end of the circle and bending it so as to make a "stem." The "stem" can then be inserted into the base.

After painting the halo gold, silver or white, place a large white or red Christmas candle securely in the vase. Fill it with branches of spruce and a few artificial silver leaves.

Like a festive Christmas package tied with an enormous red bow is this merry table in the upper illustration. At right a novel pine-cone candelabra invites feasting.

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