

Simple Elements of Our Thanksgiving Tradition

Description

Yeah yeah, I know, Thanksgiving was last week and Black Friday and Cyber Monday are already in the past. Unless, that is, you count the desperate retailers "extending" Cyber Monday through the week. Ugh! I love to hate it. Hey, it's hard to say no to something you want that's on sale, right?

I've enjoyed not worrying so much about getting a blog post out there, but missed it at the same time. Another *love to hate* thing I guess. Anyway, we hosted a whole two people for Thanksgiving, my mom ([G-Ma](#)) and little brother ([Uncle Preston](#)).



As you can see, Uncle P was very into the Thanksgiving spirit. He was trying to get tickets to the Cowboy's game or at least go tailgating at the stadium, but no luck with tickets and the rain stopped any tailgating action. So Plan B (or would it be C?) was our house. Despite being 3rd choice, I'm happy he joined us as I feel we never get enough brother time.

I think it's best Uncle Preston missed paying to see our Cowboys lose to the Panthers anyway. It was a disappointing game (especially for Romo, ouch!), but that didn't dampen the spirits of G-Ma and Avery.



These two had a lot of playtime together which, as you can see, made both of them happy. It also wore G-Ma out; it didn't take long for her to fall asleep that night. So much for watching *How I Met Your Mother* with us!

I was a little tired too since I wanted to take on making all of the Thanksgiving spread. It's stressful, but it's how I like to do things. I looked like this for a lot of the day.



Thankfully, I had these lovely girls to keep me company as they snacked and patiently waited.



Maybe “patiently” is not the best word for Avery. She kept giving me that staredown.

After spending a good hour carving the 14 pound beast of a turkey (hey, it’s a lot for 4 1/2 people) and keeping bones to make slow-cooker bone broth, we were finally ready to eat. If it wasn’t for my awesome wife getting everything heated, set out and setting the table, it would’ve easily been another hour of waiting.



Our Thanksgiving spread, and what Iâ€™m hoping will become tradition in our home, included:

- A free-range organic turkey roasted in the oven

- Goat cheese mashed potatoes
- Mashed cinnamon sweet potatoes
- Crock Pot cumin black beans
- Roasted Brussels sprouts
- Sugar-free spiced cranberry sauce (I used a can of [Orange Zevia](#) that turned out awesome)
- Crustless [NuttZo](#) pumpkin pie squares (I used blended steel cut oats and gelatin to thicken)

I was happy with how everything turned out, and judging by how everyone went back for seconds (thirds for Uncle P), Iâ€™d say so was everyone else. Can you guess my favorite dish?

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Probably a tie between the Brussels and turkey. Although, when paired with the cranberry sauce, I say the turkey was and is my favorite part. Oh, and the NuttZo pumpkin pie squares were up there. So

much so that I forgot to take a pic before digging in.



Going Mom had our camera setup with her new tripod and remote shutter release to capture our quaint Thanksgiving gathering.



Oops, thatâ€™s one of the 1000 times Avery got a hold of the remote. Here we are actually ready for the shotâ€¦..



Avery was a little blurry, but we call it a win just for the fact that she turned around. She kept busy eating turkey and mashed potatoes with her hands on her [blue plate](#).



But she had an important phone call on G-Maâ€™s phone that she *had* to take at the table.

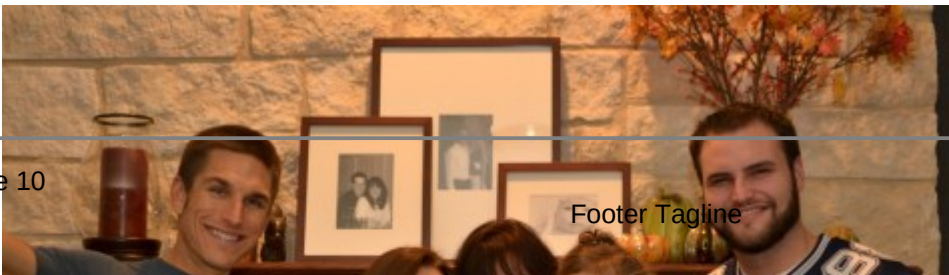


Probably already talking to her toddler peers about how to delay going to bed. Weâ€™re currently experiencing this part of the toddler phase; Iâ€™ll go into more detail later.

It was nothing extravagant, but thatâ€™s exactly how we wanted it. Good, healthy food made from scratch being shared with loved ones. Iâ€™m forever grateful to be able to spend it with my beautiful wife.



And of course my crazy beautiful daughter, mom, and little (who’s bigger than me) brother.



Thanksgiving 2015

I'm hoping to do the same spread for the fast approaching Christmas meal with the same loved ones too. The only change we're considering is making a ham instead of turkey. I love turkey, and the bone broth is awesome, but geez, it sure is time consuming for the entire process! I'm not sure yet, but will have to figure it out soon after getting my gift buying complete. Ahhh!

Do you have large or small gatherings for the holidays?

What do you think? Turkey or ham for Christmas?

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