

Behold, The Ultimate Side Dish Planner!

The purpose of this spreadsheet is to help you figure out what side dishes to plan/prepare for each main dish you put on your menu plan.

This spreadsheet is divided into the following main dish categories:

Pasta
Meals over Rice or Noodles (Mostly Asian- and Indian-Inspired)
Wraps/Sandwiches/Burritos/Mexican Inspired
Meat/Seafood Entrée
Main Dish Salad

You'll notice that I didn't include a category for soups. That's because 99% of the time, I serve soup with rolls, crackers and sliced cheese. Hardly worth its own category.

Each main dish category has a list of stellar side dishes that would pair well with any of the main dish options. *It's like a mix-and-match menu plan.*

This spreadsheet is a starting point that will allow you to jump on board the menu planning wagon with a whole arsenal of side dishes to use for your menus! If you don't see a specific main dish recipe listed, you can easily use the side dishes in the pasta category, for instance, with other pasta recipes you love that may not be included specifically here.

P.S. All the recipe links are clickable!

Enjoy!

Pasta

If You Make This for Dinner...

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| Baked Manicotti | Ham and Pasta Skillet Dinner | Skillet Chicken Parmesan |
| Baked Ziti | Homemade Spaghetti Sauce | Spaghetti Pie |
| Balsamic Chicken Noodle Bowl | Italian Lasagna Rolls | Tuscan Garlic Chicken |
| Classic Italian Lasagna | Paprika Chicken Stroganoff | White Chicken and Spinach Lasagna |
| Creamy Fettuccine with Ham and Peas | Pasta al Forno | Zucchini Lasagna |
| Creamy Garlic Alfredo Sauce with Pasta | Pesto and Sausage Baked Ziti | |
| Creamy Orzo with Chicken, Peppers and Mushrooms | | |

Choose One or Two of These Side Dishes

* = can be made ahead of time
 ^ = requires very little prep time

- | | |
|--|---|
| Buttery Peas with Thyme | Make-Ahead Garlic Bread |
| Cheesy Garlic Bread | Marinated Caprese Salad* |
| Creamy Confetti Corn | Roasted Asparagus |
| Divine Breadsticks* | Simple Steamed Vegetable (Broccoli, Green Beans, Peas, etc.)^ |
| Fresh Fruit^ | Spinach Salad with Sweet-Spicy Nuts |
| Fresh seasonal vegetables with Homemade Ranch *^ | Zucchini Mozzarella Medley |
| Honey Lime Fruit Salad | |

Meals Over Rice or Noodles (Mostly Asian – and Indian – Inspired)

If You Make This for Dinner...

[Asian Chicken Lettuce Wraps](#)

[Coconut Chicken Curry](#)

[Indian Butter Chicken](#)

[Basil Chicken in Coconut Curry Sauce](#)

[Coconut Shrimp Curry](#)

[Sweet and Sour Chicken](#)

[Bean Curry](#)

[Hawaiian Haystacks](#)

[Thai Green Curry Meatballs](#)

[Beef and Broccoli](#)

[Hoisin Rice Noodles](#)

Choose One or Two of These Side Dishes

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[Asian Noodle Salad](#)

[Mango and Black Bean Quinoa Salad*](#)

[Baked Brown Rice](#)

[Massaged Kale and Craisin Salad*](#)

[Buttery Peas with Thyme](#)

[Naan*](#)

[Creamy 5-cup Fruit Salad*](#)

[Roasted Asparagus](#)

Fresh Fruit^

Simple Steamed Vegetable (Broccoli, Green Beans, Peas, etc.)^

[Fresh Green Bean Salad*](#)

[Super Simple Spicy Thai Noodles](#)

[Honey Lime Fruit Salad](#)

Wraps/Sandwiches/Burritos/Mexican Inspired

If You Make This for Dinner...

BBQ Pulled Pork Sandwiches	Creamy Green Chile Chicken Enchiladas	Red Chile Chicken Enchiladas
Big Fat Greek Tacos	Crispy Southwest Chicken Wraps	Smothered Sweet Pork Burritos
Black Bean and Butternut Enchilada Skillet	Freezer Beef and Bean Burritos	Sweet Potato and Black Bean Burritos
Cheesy Ham and Broccoli Quinoa Bites	Ground Beef Tacos	Tex-Mex Enchilada Casserole
Chicken Fajitas	Honey Lime Chicken Enchiladas	Thai Chicken Peanut Wraps
Chile Verde	Little Quinoa Patties	The Best Sloppy Joes
Chipotle Chicken Tacos	Meatball Subs	

Choose One or Two of These Side Dishes

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Amazing Shrapnel Dip with chips *	Corn on the Cob	Hummus * with fresh vegetables and/or pita chips
Baked Brown Spanish Rice	Cornbread Muffins *	Mexican Rice
Black Bean and Sweet Corn Quinoa Salad *	Creamy 5-cup Fruit Salad *	Mexican Tomato and Corn Salad
Broccoli Salad *	Creamy Confetti Corn	Refried Beans *
Cauliflower Popcorn	Fresh Green Bean Salad *	Roasted Asparagus
Cheesy Broccoli and Rice Casserole	Fresh Seasonal Fruit^	Simple Steamed Vegetable (Broccoli, Green Beans, Peas, etc.)^
Cheesy Zucchini Rice	Fresh seasonal vegetables with Homemade Ranch *^	Spinach Salad with Sweet-Spicy Nuts
Cilantro Lime Rice	Guacamole Salad *	Summer Couscous Salad *
Coleslaw *	Honey Lime Fruit Salad	
Confetti Rice and Bean Salad *		

Meat/Seafood Entree

If You Make This for Dinner...

Baked Tilapia with Ginger and Cilantro	Grilled Teriyaki Chicken	Roasted Maple Pork Tenderloin
Brown Sugar Spiced Pork Loin	Honey Lime Tilapia	Slow Cooker Maple Brown Sugar Ham
Easy Chicken Cordon Bleu	Maple Pecan Crusted Salmon	Slow Cooker Sweet and Spicy BBQ Pot Roast
Glazed Mini Meatloaves	Tender Grilled Salmon	Sweet Balsamic Glazed Pork Loin
Grilled Lime Coconut Curry Chicken		

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Baked Brown Rice	Creamy 5-cup Fruit Salad*	Orzo Salad with Tomatoes, Basil and Feta*
Baked Garlic Mashed Potatoes	Creamy Confetti Corn	Pesto Bowties*
BBQ Macaroni Salad	Fresh Fruit^	Potato Salad*
Black Bean and Sweet Corn Quinoa Salad*	Fresh Green Bean Salad*	Roasted Asparagus
Blue Cheese and Cheddar Scalloped Potatoes	Fresh seasonal vegetables with Homemade Ranch *^	Roasted Garlic and Parmesan Mashed Potatoes
Boston Baked Beans*	Golden Skillet Potatoes	Simple Barley Pilaf
Broccoli Salad	Guacamole Salad*	Simple Rice Pilaf
Cauliflower Popcorn	Herb Roasted Potatoes	Simple Steamed Vegetable (Broccoli, Green Beans, Peas, etc.)^
Cheesy Au Gratin Potatoes	Honey Lime Fruit Salad	Spinach Salad with Sweet-Spicy Nuts
Cheesy Broccoli and Rice Casserole	Mango and Black Bean Quinoa Salad*	Summer Couscous Salad*
Cheesy Cauliflower Bake	Massaged Kale and Craisin Salad*	Sweet Potato Fries
Cheesy Ham and Broccoli Quinoa Bites*	Mediterranean Pasta Salad*	Toasted Orzo with Peas and Parmesan
Cheesy Zucchini Rice	Orange Cashew Rice	Tri Color Pasta Salad*
Coleslaw*	Orzo Pilaf	Twice Baked Potatoes
Confetti Rice and Bean Salad*		Zucchini and Yellow Squash Spaghetti
Corn on the Cob		

Main Dish Salad

If You Make This for Dinner...

[BBQ Chicken Salad](#)

[Romaine Salad with Apples and Cheddar](#)

[Chopped Taco Salad](#)

[Southwestern Cobb Salad with Green Goddess Dressing](#)

Choose One or Two of These Side Dishes

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[Corn on the Cob](#)

Fresh Fruit^

[Creamy 5-cup Fruit Salad](#)*

Fresh Seasonal Vegetables with [Homemade Ranch](#) *^

[Divine Breadsticks](#)*

[Honey Lime Fruit Salad](#)

[French Bread Rolls](#)*

[Hummus](#)* with fresh vegetables and/or pita chips

[Sweet Potato Fries](#)