

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

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

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](#)

[Ginger Chicken and Asparagus Stir-Fry](#)

[Thai Green Curry Meatballs](#)

[Beef and Broccoli](#)

[Hawaiian Haystacks](#)

[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*](#)

[Simple Skillet Green Beans](#)

[Honey Lime Fruit Salad](#)

[Super Simple Spicy Thai Noodles](#)

Wraps/Sandwiches/Burritos/Mexican Inspired

If You Make This for Dinner...

BBQ Pulled Pork Sandwiches	Creamy Green Chile Chicken Enchiladas	Slow Cooker Chicken Philly Sandwiches
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 Crunch Wraps
Chile Verde	Little Quinoa Patties	Thai Chicken Peanut Wraps
Chipotle Chicken Tacos	Meatball Subs	The Best Sloppy Joes
	Red Chile Chicken Enchiladas	

Choose One or Two of These Side Dishes

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

Choose One or Two of These Side Dishes

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

Main Dish Salad

If You Make This for Dinner...

[BBQ Chicken Salad](#)

[Greek Pita Salad](#)

[Chopped Taco Salad](#)

[Romaine Salad with Apples and Cheddar](#)

[Chopped Thai Crunch Salad with Sweet and Spicy Dressing](#)

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

[Epicurean Chicken Salad with Creamy Honey Lime Dressing](#)

Choose One or Two of These Side Dishes

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[Chewy Italian Rolls](#)

Fresh Fruit^

[Corn on the Cob](#)

[Homemade Flatbread](#)

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

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

[Divine Breadsticks*](#)

[Honey Lime Fruit Salad](#)

[Easy Brazilian Cheese Bread {Pao de Queijo}](#)

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

[Fluffy Whole Wheat Dinner Rolls](#)

[Sweet Corn Salad with Radishes, Jalapeno, and Lime](#)

[French Bread Rolls*](#)

[Sweet Potato Fries](#)