

# The Thanksgiving Hosting Game Plan

## PART TWO • Tuesday Through Take-You-a-Plate

*Do the work early so you can actually have Thanksgiving.*

### TUESDAY • Sous-Chef Night

- Add up the onions and chop them all at once
- Prep other ingredients that can safely be done ahead
- Measure, portion & label ingredients
- Group prepped ingredients by recipe
- If fridge space allows, place ingredients with their casserole dish
- Make Wednesday Jane's life easier

### WEDNESDAY • Assemble, Babycakes

- Assemble make-ahead casseroles
- Make desserts
- Finish other safe make-ahead prep
- Check that very little actual prep remains for Thursday

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT • Give the Oven a Schedule

Work backward from the time you want to eat. What can bake together? What holds well? What needs to be piping hot? Rolls go in when everything else is coming out.

| Dish | Temp | Time | Goes In | Comes Out |
|------|------|------|---------|-----------|
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### THANKSGIVING DAY • Set the Stage

- Set the table - craft paper, pumpkins, greenery/flowers, tea lights
- Set up the buffet: food on the buffet, people at the table
- Put sentimental / fragile / special things safely away
- Set out simple appetizers - not Thanksgiving Dinner: The Prequel
- Make drinks / mocktail
- Tell the person saying grace BEFORE everybody is staring at them

### WHEN THE FOOD IS READY

- Follow the oven schedule
- Put the rolls in last so they're warm
- Get the food onto the buffet
- SIT DOWN AND HAVE THANKSGIVING

### BEFORE EVERYBODY LEAVES

- Say YES when somebody offers to help clean up
- Load dishwasher / gather plates / wipe counters / take out trash
- Put lids on leftovers
- Pack take-home containers
- Send people home with turkey, ham, sides & dessert
- Babycakes, take you a plate. ■

**The point isn't to execute Thanksgiving perfectly.  
The point is to do enough ahead that you don't miss it.**

*Grace for the mess. Grit for the rest. ■ xo, Jane*