

2014

December



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Christmas Rib Roast (What we'll be having)



- 1 (3-rib) standing rib roast (7 to 8 pounds)
- 1 tablespoon kosher salt
- 1 1/2 teaspoons freshly ground black pepper
- Mustard Horseradish Sauce, recipe follows
- 1 1/2 cups good mayonnaise
- 3 tablespoons Dijon mustard
- 1 1/2 tablespoons whole-grain mustard
- 1 tablespoon prepared horseradish
- 1/3 cup sour cream
- 1/4 teaspoon kosher salt

Two hours before roasting, remove the meat from the refrigerator and allow it to come to room temperature.

Preheat the oven to 500° F and place the oven rack on the second lowest position.

Be certain the oven is very clean when roasting at these high temperatures.

Place the roast in a pan large enough to hold it comfortably, bone-side down, and spread the top thickly with the salt and pepper. Roast the meat for 45 minutes. Without removing the meat from the oven, reduce the oven temperature to 325° F and roast for another 30 minutes. Finally, increase the temperature to 450° F and roast for another 15 to 30 minutes, until the internal temperature of the meat is 125°F. (Be sure the thermometer is exactly in the center of the roast.) The total cooking time will be between 1 1/2 and 1 3/4 hours. Meanwhile, make the sauce.

Remove the roast from the oven and transfer it to a cutting board. Cover it tightly with aluminum foil and allow the meat to rest for 20 minutes. Carve and serve with the sauce.

Mustard Horseradish Sauce:

Whisk together the mayonnaise, mustards, horseradish, sour cream, and salt in a small bowl.

Recipe: www.foodnetwork.com

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

We wish you all a wonderful Christmas season with family and friends!



Christmas - Didja Know

The "X" in the abbreviation Xmas (meaning Christmas) comes from the Greek letter *Chi*, which is the first letter of the Greek word *Χριστός* which comes into English as "Christ". The "-mas" part is from the Latin-derived Old English word for *Mass*.

Christmas became a Federal holiday in 1870 in the USA.

The song *Jingle Bells* was written by James Pierpont in 1857.

The world's tallest cut Christmas tree was a 221 ft Douglas fir decorated at Northgate Shopping Center, Seattle, Washington, USA in 1950.

There are 364 gifts mentioned in "The Twelve Days of Christmas".

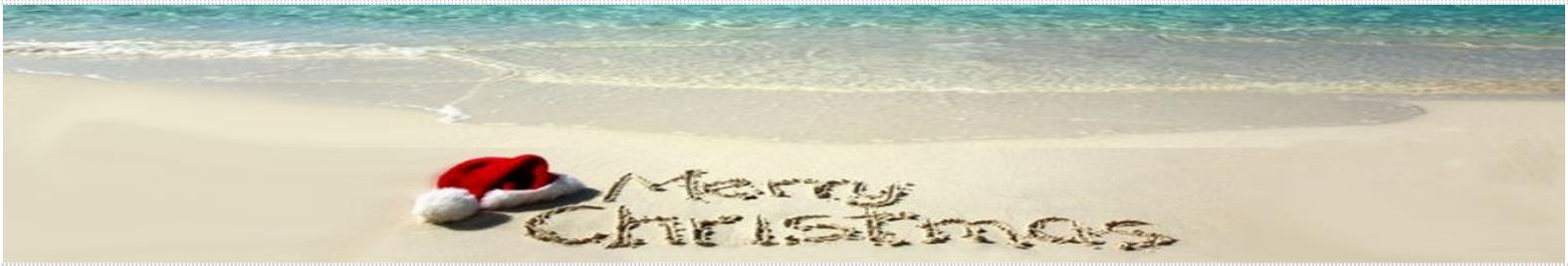
The first Christmas was celebrated on December 25, 336 AD in Rome under Constantine the Great.

It is said (Luke 1:26-38) that March 25th was the day that Mary was told by Gabriel that she would have a very special baby, Jesus. Nine months after March 25th is December 25th.

Also, Roman midwinter festivals were celebrated around this time, so celebrations were already common place.

Clara with
Grandma Lori
helping
Mom and Dad
pick out their
Christmas Tree!





To Buy or Not to Buy?



There is so much to do during the holidays. The list seems to go on forever, but next year we will all be on top of it. Right? But, is there one more thing? Could you possibly fit one more item on that list? A decision that may affect you long after the holidays have passed? Is it time to buy a house?

What? How could you ever think of something like that at a time like this?

Consider that sellers who are willing to list their home during the busiest time of the year are often the sellers that really need to sell their home. Buyers can take advantage of this rush, whether it is as an investment property or a new place to call home. It sounds like a no-brainer. Sellers want as many offers as possible, as fast as possible and they are ready to negotiate.

How much home is right for you?

There are a lot of factors that go into choosing the right home. First is usually location – for many buyers, the wrong neighborhood is often a deal-breaker. Second is price – the ability to afford the home is fundamental for financial security reasons. But there’s another question that often comes up during the initial home search process: “just how much home is right for me?”

On the surface this question is fairly straightforward, but dig a little deeper and you’ll find more questions. What is your current living situation? How long do you plan on staying in the house? Are you moving in by yourself or with someone else? If you are getting married, how long until you might need an extra room (or two)? These are tough questions to discuss with your family, but a trusted agent can help you find the solutions you need and we’re just a phone call away! (727) 534-3141.



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Congratulations to the Davenports on the purchase of their new home.



Just in time for Christmas, too!

