Hungarian Kolache or Nutroll

For Christmas and Easter, Central and Eastern Europeans make a similar type of nutroll that is often referred to as Hungarian kolache. Depending on the country, this was a common treat made for the holidays with walnuts, almonds, and sometimes poppy seeds. The most common type in South Bend, Indiana, with large Polish and Hungarian influences, was either a walnut or poppy seed kolache. The following recipe is very easy to make and almost foolproof. Shirley Buzolich, a long time cook at some of our community houses at Notre Dame, offered this recipe about 30 years ago. Enjoy.

Ingredients for the pastry:
7 cups of flour
1 ½ cups of warm milk
3 tablespoons of sugar
1 teaspoon of vanilla
1 cup of melted butter
12 egg yolks (must be at least one cup)
1 small cake of yeast (or 1 package of dry yeast)

Ingredients for the filling:
2 pounds of ground walnuts
2 cups of sugar
12 egg whites beaten stiffly
Lemon to taste

Dissolve the yeast in ½ cup of the warm milk. Mix flour and sugar together. Then knead in the melted butter and the remaining cup of warm milk along with the yeast, vanilla and egg yolks. After sufficient kneading, the dough should come off your hands easily. If not, add flour to your hands and work into the dough. Make four equal size balls and wrap them individually in wax paper. Refrigerate for at least one and a half hours.

For the filling, mix the ground walnuts with the sugar and lemon and fold in the stiffly beaten egg whites. Spread filling as above and roll. Place on a baking sheet, seam side down, then stick four times on the top and three times on each side.

Roll out each of the four balls into 12 x 14 inch sheets. Spread the filling evenly on each sheet, roll like a jelly roll and pinch the seams and ends together. Place seam side down onto a baking pan. Stick four times on the top and three times on each side.

Cool before slicing.

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CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Family is so important at Christmas, and you are a part of the Holy Cross family as are your loved ones. If there are specific individuals (living or deceased) you would like to remember this Christmas season, jot them down on the enclosed prayer slip and return it to us. No offering is required, but any gift would go a long way to help support the apostolic priorities of Holy Cross. May God bless you this holiday season!
We enter into a time of preparing for the coming of Christ in near. “Make ready the way of the Lord” (Isaiah 40:3). For the next four weeks, we anticipate Christ’s advent through the readings and beautiful Christmas carols sung during the Advent season. At the Christmas Mass, we hear the beautiful O Antiphons before the Magnificat. They represent a magnificent theology that uses biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming of Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but present ones as well. The repeated use of the imperative “Come” embodies the longing of all for the Divine Messiah.

From this prophetic description of a peaceful coming of the Lord, we then celebrate the final week before the Nativity. Each day at Evening Prayer, from December 17th to the 23rd, we recite the beautiful O Antiphons before the Magnificat. These antiphons are a magnificent theology that uses biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming of Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but present ones as well. The repeated use of the imperative “Come” embodies the longing of all for the Divine Messiah.

O Wisdom of our God Most High
O Leader of the House of Israel
O Root of Jesse’s stem
O Key of David
O Radiant Dawn
O King of all nations and keystone of the Church
O Emanuel, our King and Giver of Law

The Church also marks several other days in December dedicated to Our Lady and to St. Nicholas emphasizing how each of these days helps in our preparation for the Nativity. The first of these days is the Feast of St. Nicholas on December 6th. Many of us remember leaving shoes outside the door with the hope St. Nicholas would reward our good behavior with candy and coins. Of course, our mothers had to assure the visiting St. Nicholas, when he rapped on the door, that we had been very good that year and were deserving of rewards. The fear of course was that it may be the devil at the door, and we would receive nothing and our shoes would be empty! Many cultures still celebrate St. Nicholas who is the forerunner of the present day Santa Claus.

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception on December 8th is a very special day for us here in the United States. Under this title, Mary is the Patroness of our country, and we should celebrate it accordingly. This is a holy day of obligation, when we take the time to honor Mary, who conceived without sin, and was so willing to become the Mother of God. This year we should remember to ask Mary to intercede with her Son in making us aware of our need for peace and civility in our society as we make ready for the coming of her Son.

The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12th has become a very important day among Latino Catholics in the American Church. Parishes throughout the United States mark this feast with impressive Marian liturgies marking her appearance to Juan Diego in Guadalupe, Mexico. The liturgy is usually followed with fiestas celebrating the cultural heritage of Latino Americans. In Des Plains, Illinois, at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe at Maryville Academy, more than 100,000 people gather each year to celebrate this feast, and the number of pilgrims to this celebration in Chicago is second in size only to the Basilica in Mexico City. This is indicative of how important Latino Catholics view this feast day.

Christmas, of course, is the high point of this holiday season. At the Christmas Mass, we hear the beautiful news of the birth of Christ that fulfilled the hope of many centuries of waiting for the coming of the Messiah. The readings and beautiful Christmas carols sung during the Christmas season remind us of our celebrating the birth of Christ.

I proclaim to you good news of great joy; today a Savior is born to us, Christ the Lord (Luke 2:10-11).

These are very comforting words that summarize the meaning of Christmas. These are hopeful words for us who live in a world with so much violence and lack of peace. Our prayers during Christmas should certainly be for peace in a world so in need of it. For twelve days following Christmas, we continue to celebrate the newborn infant with the Feast of the Epiphany, when the three Kings followed the star to Bethlehem bearing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The Christmas season liturgically ends with the Baptism of Jesus celebrated this year on January 13th.

Despite the secularization of Christmas in our society, we still manage to maintain a strong and lasting meaning to this season. In a sense, the happiness of the season, so vibrantly demonstrated in the faces of children, and the gathering of family and friends, has not been totally lost. Paying attention to the Season of Advent, the several feasts preceding Christmas, and then the visit of the Magi, and finally the Baptism of Jesus, provides for us a time when we connect our faith to our celebrations in a myriad of ways that contribute to the true meaning of Christmas.

Let us this year, beginning with the First Sunday of Advent, take the time to pause and reflect on the importance of the season. Let us share with others the celebrations of these major December feast days. Let us enter fully in celebrating our faith and passing down, especially to children and grandchildren, the beautiful customs and practices surrounding each of these days. In the week before Christmas, let us appreciate the beauty of the O Antiphons reminding us of the many hopes of our ancient ancestors in their expectation of the Christ Child. Then, like the three Kings, may we make our offerings to celebrate Christ’s coming as we recall what some refer to as the “Second Christmas.” Let us also pray for peace in our families, our nation, and the entire world so that we may welcome the Infant Jesus into a world that is truly at peace.

Our prayers and best wishes for you and your families as you celebrate this beautiful time of the year. May the Infant Jesus bless you and provide good health for you in the coming New Year.