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Easter Party Ideas

By Rachel Webb

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by: **Rachel Webb**

Easter marks the start of spring and is a sacred holiday for Christians throughout the world as it signifies when Jesus Christ was resurrected from the grave to live again. But where did the Easter bunny and eggs fit into the Easter tradition?

The rabbit and eggs were actually symbols of fertility, immortality and new life to commemorate Christ's resurrection. In Germany, colored eggs were left in children's baskets and the custom was brought to America with German immigrants in the later 19th century.

Easter can be a fun time of year to celebrate the renewed growth of spring no-matter what religious beliefs you may have. Here are some idea's to use for an Easter celebration party.

TABLE DECORATIONS

Turn a recycled white sheet into a spectacular Easter tablecloth by sponge painting bunnies, baskets and eggs in bright spring colors. Be sure to use textile paints so the tablecloth can be washed and used another year. Fabric paints are also available in squeeze applicators with glitter colors for decorating the sponged Easter eggs. Paint will need to dry at least 24 hours prior to use.

Make a festive napkin ring by threading a sewing needle with narrow elastic thread and stringing jelly beans onto it. You may need to put a little vegetable oil on the needle to help it slide threw the candy. Tie off the ends to form a circle and slide it over the rolled napkins for a cute way to dress up the table. Add a solid colored doily under the plates for a festive way to dress up the table.

You can serve creamy lemon pie or light strawberry custard, strawberry almond pastry or let the kids decorate personalized tulip cookies. The menu options are endless but I suggest you keep the choices light and festive. Tableware does not need to match but keep to a color theme of bright spring colors or soft pastels.

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EASTER CRAFTS

Little girls love making their own Easter bonnets. Cut a large 12 1/2" circle out of heavy artist poster board using a compass as your guide. Attach a wide satin ribbon to the middle of the circle with hot glue, leaving long trailing tails to tie the bonnet on. Have lots of decorative options available for embellishing the hats. Kids can make flowers colored miniature cupcake baking cups or doilies. You can also use adhesive dots, paint, glitter, pleated paper ribbon, lace remimates or tulle to make decorate the bonnets.

Each child can make their own gingham Easter bunny or duck out of fabric, yarn and cotton batting or fiberfill. Have the shape of the animals pre-cut for the children and place the right sides of the fabric out. Let the kids stitch yarn around the edge of the shape leaving a 1" opening to stuff the cotton filling. An adult can blind stitch the hole closed and help glue on buttons for the eyes and pom-poms for the

nose. Use pinking sheers to finish the edges.

Adults can also enjoy a Easter garden party. Invite friends to bring perennials for their gardens to exchange with other plants. Provide each guest with labels, paper bags or plastic nursery containers. Let them take home the same amount of plants that they brought getting an affordable start on beautiful blooms.

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Tips For Buying Easter Lilies

By Gray Rollins

Give the gift of Easter lilies

Easter lilies are one of the most popular of all holiday plants. They are gorgeous little flowers that will bring joy into the home of anyone who is lucky enough to receive them. If your home needs a little oomph this year then pick up some Easter lilies and if you are invited to an Easter dinner or Easter party, consider bringing along some Easter lilies to give as a hostess gift. They will simply light up the room!

What makes Easter lilies so wonderful is their complete versatility. You can grow your Easter lilies in your home for as long as you want, you do not ever have to plant them outside if you don't want to. But

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if you do decide that your garden would be better for the Easter lilies then you can simply plant them in the garden when the weather gets a little warmer. They will change the entire look and feel of your garden. They will add a light and airy feeling filled with love and hope. That is the magic of Easter lilies and why so many people have fallen in love with their lovely little trumpets over the years.

So how do you choose the Easter lilies that are right for you or someone close to you? It is easy, follow the steps below and always come away from the store with the perfect Easter lilies for any occasion.

Look for lots of healthy green leaves.

The more leaves that the Easter lilies have on the plant the healthier they are going to be. These leaves should be plentiful all around the plant and should go right down to where the Easter lilies meet the potting soil in the pot.

Do not choose the Easter lilies with the already blooming flowers.

Many people make the mistake of choosing the Easter lilies that already have many open buds. Try to choose one with a couple opened and even more unopened. This way you will be able to enjoy your Easter lilies much longer. If you buy them already bloomed in a couple of days those will have died and there will be no buds to take their place.

Choose the Easter lilies that look good on all sides

Try to choose the Easter lilies that look just as pretty from the back as they do from the front. This is the best way to choose the Easter lilies that are right for you this year.

Gray Rollins is a featured writer for

. For more info about Easter lilies, and

more visit

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