

lake norman

WOMEN

CELEBRATING 1

WOMEN

including:
AMANDA ROGERS
MOLLY MALONE'S
BOUTIQUE

ATTITUDE OF Gratitude

reboot your
THANKSGIVING

BETTER *health,*
BETTER WELL-BEING

Women of Will
NOMINEES & FINALISTS INSIDE



Sharing Gratitude At A Well-Designed

TABLE



BY: STARR MILLER

EVERY YEAR BEFORE THANKSGIVING, my mother pulled out all the silver, and we polished for weeks in anticipation of a formal family celebration.

She always used her best china, crystal, and silverware to ensure everyone felt special and grateful for the blessings in our lives.

Today, many formal dining rooms are becoming offices, playrooms, and music rooms. Open floor plans often include a large table that works for breakfast and lunch, as well as casual and formal dinners. One table must do it all.

It is possible to dress up a casual-dining area and make it luxurious:

• **Tablecloth:** Though I love placemats and seeing the wood of a gorgeous table, when you see that table every day, a striking white linen tablecloth will instantly transform the setting.

• **Slipcovers:** Consider slipcovering the cushions or the entire chair. You can offer a formal or casual effect, a seasonal winter or summer option, or just a cleaner everyday option as you can throw the slipcover into the laundry.

• **Draperies:** These are an investment; however, wouldn't it be fun to change them for festive occasions? It could be as simple as readymade velvet draperies or as complex as a custom set with extra adornment.

• **Chandelier:** No, I'm not suggesting you change it out. Who wants an electrician to show up prior to each dinner party? But you could add some crystals or pearls to the everyday chandelier to add a little bling!

Now, make time to use "the good stuff." It can be a hassle if only one person cleans the china, silver, and crystal before and after use. Put a system together to make washing and drying a family affair. We do this so rarely these days that it can be a family ritual for the holidays.

Here are some quick rules for preserving your good tableware:

CHINA

- Line the sink with a cloth or rubber mat. Using a mild soap, wash one dish at a time.
- Do not use scouring pads on any fine tableware.
- If you choose to put your good china in the dishwasher (and I am not recommending



this), make sure the 'heat' option is off. Heat softens and damages the gold banding.

SILVER

• Clean off all silverware immediately. Salt, mayo, and other food items can eat away the finish if left without cleaning. If you plan the big clean for the morning, rinse all the silver before heading off to bed.

• Do not put hollow-handled knives in the dishwasher or immerse in water. This can let in water and weaken the knives.

CRYSTAL

• Wash your crystal stemware in a mild soap, and rinse in water plus a bit of vinegar for a sparkling finish.

• Do not twist using the stem when drying. This could cause damage.

• Always store crystal standing upright. Do not turn upside down as the rim is the most sensitive area.

My hope is that you all enjoy a festive holiday season, and know that I am grateful to be a member of this community!



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