

## EMERIL LAGASSE'S COCONUT CREAM PIE – HAPPY #PIDAY



My fifteen year old daughter celebrated *Official  $\pi$  Day* by baking this super rich and dreamy *Coconut Cream Pie* for her high school math class. Students that participated in the exercise were promised to receive extra credit for their efforts; which in my opinion, is never a bad thing when it comes to grades.

*Pi Day: March 14 is Pi Day, a sacred celebration in which radius and circumference lovers rejoice over circular snacks and decimal-reciting contests. Pi (Greek letter “ $\pi$ ”) is the symbol used in mathematics to represent a constant – the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter – which is approximately 3.14159. – By Charyn Pfeuffer*

This was Shannon's first attempt at making a creampie from scratch; she did an excellent job with only a few cooking tips from mom! She also made a great first impression on her teacher with her pie baking skills eliciting an exuberant, “I need that recipe” response!

Shannon not only impressed her teacher with near perfect execution

of this recipe, she also recited, from memory, twenty places of PI: 3.14159265897323846264! She won the class competition and earned herself a cake made by her teacher.

My favorite recipe for coconut cream pie is made by [Emeril Lagasse](#). No need to reinvent the wheel when you have a foolproof recipe! Emeril rocks!



Coconut Cream Pie  
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Yields 6

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Prep Time

10 min

Cook Time

35 min

Total Time

50 min

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Ingredients

1. 1 pre baked 9 inch pie crust, cooled and set aside
2. 2 1/4 cups whole milk
3. 3/4 cups sugar 1/4 cup reserved for egg whites
4. 3 eggs separated, whites in separate bowl
5. 1/4 cup cornstarch
6. 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
7. 1 1/2 cups coconut for filling ,1/4 cup toasted for garnish
8. 1 tablespoon butter

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees F.
2. In a saucepan, whisk the 2 cups of milk and 3/4 cup sugar together
3. Place the pan over medium heat and bring liquid up to a simmer
4. Whisk the egg yolks together
5. Temper the hot milk into the egg yolks (to temper: add 1 tablespoon hot milk to eggs, whisk, add additional 2 tablespoons hot milk 1 tablespoon at a time and whisk between additions)
6. Slowly whisk tempered egg mixture into the hot milk mixture
7. In a small bowl, dissolve the cornstarch in the remaining 1/4 cup milk, making a slurry
8. Whisk slurry into hot milk mixture
9. Bring liquid to a boil and reduce to a simmer
10. Cook mixture, stirring constantly, until the filling is thick, about 3-4 minutes
11. Fold in the vanilla, plain coconut, and butter
12. Mix well
13. Pour filling into baked pie shell, cool completely
14. Using an electric mixer, whip the egg whites to soft peaks, add remaining sugar and whip egg whites to stiff peaks
15. Spread egg whites over the top of the pie, smooth whites evenly over filling
16. Sprinkle toasted coconut over pie
17. Place pie in a preheated 350 degree F.oven, bake for 3-4 minutes or until meringue is golden brown

To toast coconut

1. Place 1/4 coconut in a nonstick pan, cook over medium heat until brown, to keep from burning, stir constantly

By Emeril Lagasse

Adapted from Rebecka Evans 3-14-14

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