Mushroom Bread Pudding



Makes 8 - 10 servings (single).

Double	Single	Ingredients
20 cups	10 cups	Country or peasant style bread cut in 1" cubes
1/2 cup	1/4 cup	Olive oil
4 tsp	2 tsp	Thyme (chopped fresh) or 1/2 tsp dried thyme
4 tsp	2 tsp	Sage (chopped fresh) or 1/2 tsp dried sage
2 large	1 large	Garlic cloves, finely chopped
1 stick	1/2 stick	Butter, preferably unsalted
2 lb	1 lb	Mushrooms, assorted fresh, thinly sliced
3 cups	1 1/2 cups	Onion, chopped
3 cups	1 1/2 cups	Celery, chopped
1/2 cup	1/4 cup	Parsley (fresh), chopped
7 cups	3 1/2 cups	Milk <u>or</u> half and half
16	8	Eggs (large), lightly beaten
2 tsp	1 tsp	Salt
1 tsp	1/2 tsp	Pepper, freshly ground
1 cup	1/2 cup	Parmesan cheese, finely grated

Preheat oven to 375° F. Butter a 9x13-inch baking pan and set aside.

Place bread cubes in a large bowl. Toss with olive oil, thyme, sage and garlic. Spread on a large rimmed baking sheet. Sprinkle with salt and pepper to taste. Bake until golden, about 20 minutes. (This step can be done ahead.)

Melt butter in a large skillet over medium heat. Add mushrooms, onion and celery and cook until soft and juices have evaporated. Add parsley. Combine veggies and bread cubes in a large bowl.

Whisk together milk or half and half, eggs and salt and pepper and mix with bread cube/veggie mixture. Let sit 30 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Reheat oven to 350° F. Pour bread pudding into prepared pan, sprinkle with grated cheese and bake, uncovered, until set and top is golden, about 1 hour.

<u>OR</u> – Combine bread cube/veggie mixture and pour into prepared pan. Sprinkle cheese over. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate overnight. Preheat oven to 350° F. Bake uncovered, until set and top is golden, about 1 hour.

Let stand 15 minutes before serving.