



Holiday Checklists

“If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.”

~ James 1:5

In the following pages you will find detailed checklists for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year’s to help you brainstorm the big and little tasks that come with each holiday. Don’t be overwhelmed by these lists as they are meant to inspire you and encourage you to think ahead. Pray over each checklist and allow God to show you what needs to be done for your particular home and family puzzle. Remember, you do you!

Thanksgiving

- Create a family “Communication Station” displaying *Weekly Planner*, *Monthly Planners*, and school/holiday event flyers.
- Record events/times on *Monthly Planners* in your binder.
- Finalize holiday travel plans and reservations; add to planners.
- Discuss travel and overnight plans with guests or hosts.
- If hosting a meal or party, send invitations; include what to bring, if relevant.
- Inventory/prepare Thanksgiving table linens, china, flatware, etc.; create a shopping list.
- Place orders for food from the grocer, baker, etc.
- Purchase a frozen turkey or order a fresh one to be picked up 1-2 days prior to your preparation. This saves space in your freezer and refrigerator, as well as saving time.
- Schedule family photo session and plan wardrobe; create a shopping list, if needed.
- Schedule hair, mani/pedi, and facial appointments or personal time for self-care.
- Begin Christmas *Gift Giving* form with your husband.
- Check the gift closet for gifts purchased throughout the year.
- Set up crafting/wrapping station(s); create a shopping list.
- Combine all shopping lists; schedule shopping trip(s) on *Weekly Planner*.
- Confirm guests for Thanksgiving meal and overnight accommodations.
- Combine groceries, gifts, and sundries lists.
- Gather recipes and ideas for the holiday.
- Use the *Meal Planner* form to create your menu for extra meals to prepare for children and visiting guests during Thanksgiving break.

Thanksgiving (continued)

- Carve a pumpkin with a Thanksgiving theme.
- Decorate front entry, dining table, and mantle/hearth. If you have time, add seasonal touches to the kitchen, gathering room, and bathroom (scented candles/potpourri, hand towels, dried arrangements, throw blankets/pillows, etc.). Use the *Delighted to Decorate* form.
- Complete your seasonal decor by setting a date in your *Weekly Planner* and *Monthly Planner*.
- Install leaves in the table, prepare for extra chairs or tables, if needed.
- Purchase paper goods, linens, and plastic containers for guests to take home leftovers.
- Store prepared baked goods in the freezer, pantry or refrigerator to keep fresh until the designated event.
- Prepare seasonal treats and store in airtight bags or containers.
- Delegate, Delegate, Delegate! Have the family help in tasks to reduce stress.
- Set a budget for your holiday spending, use *Gift Giving* form.
- Pull food out of the freezer to thaw for serving.
- Groceries purchased.
- Foods are prepped, i.e., veggies chopped, dips made, etc.
- Serving pieces accounted for, i.e., platters, spoons, etc.
- If traveling, make arrangements for boarding your pets. If you're not traveling bathe your dog(s).
- Prepare for travel: car maintenance, suitcases prepared, etc.
- Clean off counters and store unnecessary items to utilize space for serving and preparation of food.
- Set the table.
- Plan for adequate sleeping arrangements for overnight guests, i.e., linens, pillows, blankets, etc.
- Prepare a basket of seasonal fruits or baked items to share with a homebound individual or a neighbor. Include the kids on this effort to bless someone through giving.
- Pack up all Thanksgiving/fall decor in clear boxes, print out labels from www.myhelpclubformoms.com to place on boxes designated for the appropriate season.
- Prepare for Christmas card photo.
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Holiday Checklists

“Once in our world, a stable had something in it that was bigger than our whole world.”

~ C.S. Lewis

Christmas

- Purchase stamps and mail Christmas cards.
- Pull Christmas boxes from storage.
- Decorate house using the “Direction of Focus” concept from *Cleaning Compass* and *Delighted to Decorate*. Repair items that are broken and throw away those damaged beyond repair.
- Plan meals using leftovers from Thanksgiving.
- Using *Gift Giving* form make your shopping list.
- Prepare a menu for Christmas gatherings for the month of December using the *Meal Planner*.
- Hang Christmas lights.
- While hanging outside lights clean out gutters.
- Before draping exterior lights in shrubs, trim shrubs, this conserves the number of lights needed.
- While decorating doorways, porches, and entryways, clean surfaces, lights, etc.
- Start your Advent traditions (refer to Christmas Week One for ideas, suggestions, and tips).
- Mail out-of-town gifts for guaranteed delivery.
- Continue your gift shopping using *Gift Giving* form.
- Finish decorating practicing the “Focus 15.”
- Establish a basket or box with all gift wrapping supplies for the family to easily access.
- Wrap gifts as they are purchased.
- Track gift purchased and wrapped on *Gift Giving* form.
- Place all receipts in the designated envelope for easy retrieval, as recommended on the *Gift Giving* form.
- Wrap freshly baked items and store in the freezer.
- Make a note of traditions on the *Weekly Planner* and *Monthly Planner*.
- Add new additions for seasonal events and activities on *New Additions and Traditions* form.
- Take time to enjoy and savor the beauty of your Christmas decor.
- Maintain your habits in *Meal Planning* and *Cleaning Compass*.

Christmas (continued)

- Prepare the clothing you desire the family to wear for Christmas events and activities.
- Plan meals by using items in freezer, fridge, and pantry to accommodate for space in preparation of additional holiday shopping.
- Take inventory on serving pieces and dinnerware.
- Have kid's craft table decorations for use during special holiday mealtimes.
- Go caroling and provide seasonal treats to individuals who are homebound or in a nursing home.
- Put away annual decor in Christmas boxes as you add Christmas decor. This keeps surfaces clean and clutter-free.
- Prepare the sleeping arrangements for overnight guests.
- Purchase a puzzle to have family and guests complete during the holiday.
- Have dinner around the Christmas tree one evening with only the tree lights on.
- Review and bask in all your accomplishments via *Gift Giving* form, *Meal Planner*, *Cleaning Compass*, etc.
- Prepare for travel: car maintenance, suitcases prepared, etc.
- Pull pre-prepared frozen meals and baked items from the freezer.
- Have kids help pack baked goodies in gift boxes for neighbors and public service workers.
- Purchase extra batteries for new gifts and misc.
- Clear surfaces for food preparation and serving, as well as for guests' personal belongings while they are visiting.
- Assign each child to purge old toys, books, and clothing in preparation for new items gifted while home from school on holiday break.
- Wipe down and sweep entryways, porches, and patios for refreshing welcome for guests.
- Final grocery run, pick up meat, poultry and other large staples for holiday meals.
- Set holiday table.
- Find time to rest, relax and bask in your preparations for this holiday season. Arise early with your favorite drink in hand. Turn on Christmas lights and enjoy the beauty of your home while reading your Help Club devotional.
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Holiday Checklists

“We cannot start over but we can begin now, and make a new beginning.”
~ Zig Ziglar

~ New Year's ~

- Create a social media invitation for New Year's party.
- Buy party favors and fireworks.
- Cast photos of last years party on the TV or family favorite photos from previous year.
- Replace regular light bulbs with party bulbs.
- Provide props and a designated area for photo ops.
- Create a playlist for the theme of the party.
- Plan on games based on the theme for the party.
- Prepare a traditional New Year meal: cabbage, black eye peas, greens and cornbread (very southern).
- Create a time capsule (as mentioned on page 140).
- Have family and guests participate in the “Snapshot of my Year” (as mentioned on page 141).

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