



Hello!

I am so glad that you grabbed this organizer!

I completely understand how overwhelming the holiday season can be and how balls can be dropped in the hustle and bustle.

That's why I created this organizer – just for you! I have included in this planner the very systems that I use to keep our family on track throughout the holidays.

Staying organized is the key to eliminating overwhelm, and this planner will help you stay ahead of your holiday plans.

Print these pages and keep it close by. For maximum benefit, be sure to write down every detail that you can. That way, they are all on paper, freeing up precious brain and memory space.

Happy Holidays!!

Heather



Safety Tips for the 2020 Holiday Season

As you start making your plans for the holidays this year, consider ways to celebrate the holiday that may look a little different than it has in years past.

Some general things that you can do to keep yourself and others safe and healthy are to:

- Enjoy a virtual feast with one another through Zoom
- · Keep any and all gatherings small
- If weather allows, consider moving your Thanksgiving gathering outdoors
- Wear a mask anytime you're indoors but not eating
- Arrange your space and seating to seat people further apart

I hope you have a safe and very happy holiday season!

Give Thanks

Made In A Pinch

Thanksgiving Planning Checklist

First Week of November

- □ Prepare your guest list and confirm how many people you will have
- Check with your guests to find out whether there are any special dietary needs
- □ Begin planning the menu
- Ordering a Turkey? Do it now (plan on 1 pound per person if ordering a full bone-in turkey)
- □ If you are ordering fresh flowers for Thanksgiving, do it now

Two Weeks Before Thanksgiving

- □ Collect any recipes you'll need for your menu.
- □ Assign cooking projects to family members who offer to help.

4-5 Days Before Thanksgiving

- □ Use your planned menu and the included grocery shopping list to make your Thanksgiving shopping list
- □ Shop for the heartier vegetables, heavy cream, and non-perishables now
- □ If you are buying a frozen turkey, do it now and start thawing
- □ **Thawing a turkey takes 24 hours for every 4 pounds**. Begin thawing the turkey
- □ Plan Thanksgiving activities for kids and adults. Invite guests to bring activities or movies too.

2 Days Before Thanksgiving

- □ If making cranberry sauce, do it now.
- Prep the table and place settings; iron any fabric table cloths, napkins and placemats



Thanksgiving Planning Checklist

Day Before Thanksgiving

- □ If making stuffing from scratch, cut up the bread and prep
- □ Make desserts
- □ Prep any special breakfasts and appetizers
- Prepare side dishes and bake (especially casseroles) to reheat the next day; OR assemble the side dishes and store in the fridge to bake on Thanksgiving
- \Box Make the whipped cream for dessert it will keep well for 3-4 days
- □ Set the table now
- □ Set up a coat rack or plan for guests' coats
- □ Calculate your cooking time (and cooking order) for tomorrow.
- □ Figure out what can't be cooked along with the turkey in the oven, either in terms of temperature or space. Plan to cook those things before or after the turkey is done, or on the stovetop while it's cooking; better still, make them today.

Thanksgiving Day

- Stuff the turkey and get it in the oven according to the schedule you calculated yesterday. (Pro-tip: it cooks faster when placed in an oven bag)
- Just before the turkey's done, begin cooking fresh vegetables, and get anything else that needs to go into the oven ready (stuffing, storebought rolls, etc.)
- Put a foil tent over the turkey. You now have about an hour to do the remaining cooking. Warm whatever needs to be warmed, including mashed potatoes, rolls, soups and casseroles.
- \Box Make the gravy.
- Put all the food on the table or buffet. Don't hesitate to press guests into service to put food in bowls, open wine bottles, fill glasses and dish up the cranberry sauce.
- □ Get a plate and eat! Don't spend the meal running back and forth to the kitchen and miss out on the awesome feast you've created.



November 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	ယ	4	51	6	7
œ	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30		Recipes to try this month:	y this month:	Special Events:	Events:
	Notes:					

Holiday Budget Planning

FOOD	ESTIMATED	SPENT	DIFFERENCE	NOTES
Thanksgiving				
Baking				
Christmas				
Hanukkah				
New Years				
Other:				

OTHER SPENDING ESTIMATED SPENT DIFFERENCE NOTES

Decorations		
Travel		
Special Activities		
Entertaining		
New Years		
Other:		

THANKSGIVING MENU PLANNING

DATE:	TIME:	LOCATION:		# GUESTS:
APPETIZERS:	RECIPE	E SOURCE:	NOTES:	
SOUPS & SALADS:	RECIPA	E SOURCE:	NOTES:	
SIDE DISHES:		E SOURCE:	NOTES:	
SAUCES & DRINKS:	RECIP	E SOURCE:	NOTES:	
MAIN DISHES:	RECIP	E SOURCE:	NOTES:	
BREADS:	RECIF	PE SOURCE:	NOTES:	
DESSERTS:	RECIF	PE SOURCE:	NOTES:	
	<u> </u>			

GROCERIES LIST

Fresh vegetables	Fresh fruits	Dairy	Baking
			0
			Baked Goods
	Spices & herbs		
Frozen			
			Desserts
	Condiments / Sauces		
Seafood		Meat/Protein	
			Snacks
Misc Groceries	Canned Foods	Seafood	
			Beverages

POTLUCK HOST MENU PLANNING

UAII	E:	# GUESTS:	
APPETIZERS:	WHO IS BRINGING:	NOTES:	
SOUPS & SALADS:	WHO IS BRINGING:	NOTES:	
SIDE DISHES:	WHO IS BRINGING:	NOTES:	
SAUCES & DRINKS:	WHO IS BRINGING:	NOTES:	
	WHO IS BRINGING:	NOTES:	
BREADS:	WHO IS BRINGING:	NOTES:	
DESSERTS:	WHO IS BRINGING:	NOTES:	
			

Joy To The World

Made In A Pinch

Christmas Planning Checklist

SE	PTEMBER
	Start Gift Planning and write out your gift lists — Use the Gift Planner sheets to help
	Start purchasing gifts for teachers, coworkers and friends to spread out the financial impact
00	CTOBER
	Start Creating Gifts: Picture collages for calendars or other photo gifts, any crafted gifts, any kid-created gifts
	If you haven't already, begin your holiday shopping to spread out the financial impact. Especially focus on any out of town family and friends that you want to ship gifts to.
	Save any shopping items that are likely to go on great Black Friday or Cyber Monday sales for purchase on those days (electronics, kitchen appliances, movies, video gaming items, etc).
	Plan out any holiday volunteer service you want to commit to and contact to make arrangements.
EA	ARLY-MID NOVEMBER
	Create and order Christmas cards
	Buy stamps
M	ID-LATE NOVEMBER
	Sign, address, stamp, and send holiday cards
	Plan and carry out Black Friday and Cyber Monday shopping — check ads and make lists before going to the store to help eliminate impulse purchases
	Purchase any bulk gifts to give to neighbors, acquaintances and party Hosts
	If hosting a holiday party, make plans, set dates, and make guest lists



Now

Christmas Planning Checklist

□ Firm up any and all travel plans; purchase tickets and book hotel rooms, if needed.
□ Mail any gift packages that you can to guarantee on time delivery and significantly reduce your wait time at the post office; you can schedule at home pick-up at www.usps.com
FIRST WEEK OF DECEMBER
□ Drop off any festive outfits that need to be dry cleaned
 Plan the holiday menus and guest lists; order any turkeys, hams or specialty foods
□ Set up a wrapping station in a low traffic area of your home and wrap gifts as you buy them
\square Set up a hiding spot or gift area for gifts as you buy and wrap them
 Complete as much shopping as you can online — it saves you time — and search for coupons, sales and free shipping
\square Plan out your holiday baking — collect recipe and determine quantities
 Take inventory of baking supplies and replace those that are running low
\square Unpack decorations and decorate the house, interior and exterior
SECOND WEEK OF DECEMBER
 Complete as much shopping as you can online — it saves you time — and search for coupons, sales and free shipping
□ Complete 1st part of the holiday cleaning — start with infrequently used rooms and areas.
 Dedicate a day or two (depending on how much you need) to do your holiday and cookie baking. Set some aside as family treats and package the rest to give as gifts to neighbors, friends, coworkers, and service people.
 Prepare freezer meals for quick dinners during the holiday hustle and Bustle
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Christmas Planning Checklist

	Confirm guest list
	Finish planning the holiday menus and assign any contribution dishes
	to family members and guests.
IH	IRD WEEK OF DECEMBER
	If traveling, print out boarding passes and check in online to save time. Try to pack everything into a carry on to save time and hassle at bagging.
	Finish wrapping any gifts that haven't been wrapped.
	Clean the rest of the house that you didn't cover the first time through
	Ship or schedule a shipping pick up for any last minute gifts. The shipping deadline is often around 12/20.
□ '	Wash, iron and prep any table linens that you will be using.
	Shop for any non-perishable food needed to complete your holiday Menus
	lf making a turkey, allow at least 4 days to thaw
СΠ	RISTMAS EVE
	Plan and prepare a simple dinner — one of those freezer meals you prepared ahead of time would be great
	Prepare any pies, desserts and sides that you can to make the holiday meal preparation easier.
	lf you enjoy a breakfast casserole on Christmas morning, prepare that now.
CH	RISTMAS DAY
	Eat your already prepared Christmas morning breakfast, or let the
	family enjoy a quick, simple breakfast to save room for the big meal.
	Enjoy the holiday!
N 1	

December 2020

	27	20	13	6	Sun N Special Events:
	28	21	14	7	Mon ints:
Notes:	29	22	15	œ	Tue 1
	30	23	16	9	Wed 2
	31	24	17	10	Thu 3
	Recipes to tr	25	18	11	Fri 4
	Recipes to try this month:	26	19	12	Sat 5

Recipes & Resources

When it comes to the holidays, part of staying on task is figuring out what you want to buy and what you want to make. Here are some of my favorite recipes and gift guides to help narrow down the choices!

Gift Guides

- Top 21+ Inexpensive Toddler Stocking Fillers Ideas
- 25 Awesome Gifts for Kids Who Love Animals
- The 27 Best Subscription Boxes for Kids (Updated)
- 10 Amazing STEM gift ideas kids will love!
- Top 15 Must-Have Montessori Toys for 2-Year-Olds
- Top 15 Fun And Easy Card Games to Play As A Family
- 15 Best Board Games For Families With Kids 6 And Up (Updated)

Recipes

- Homemade Decadent Holiday Gingerbread Whoopie Pies
- The 8 best simple and effective healthy holiday eating tips! (+ a recipe)
- Decadent Pumpkin French Toast (Fast Prep!)
- Decadent & Smooth Homemade Non-Alcoholic Eggnog
- Get Festive With This Simple Hot Mulled Cider Recipe!

More Help for the Holidays

- The 5 Best Tips to Create a Well-Stocked Gift Closet
- How to practice self-care during the holidays
- 7 Essential Ways to Avoid Overspending During the Holidays
- Fun & Clever Elf On The Shelf Ideas For Toddlers

Holiday Budget Planning

FOOD	ESTIMATED	SPENT	DIFFERENCE	NOTES
Thanksgiving				
Baking				
Christmas				
Hanukkah				
New Years				
Other:				

OTHER SPENDING ESTIMATED SPENT DIFFERENCE NOTES

Decorations		
Travel		
Special Activities		
Entertaining		
New Years		
Other:		

CHRISTMAS GIFTS LIST

Name:	Gift:	Purchased:	Spent:
			D400 01400

CHRISTMAS GIFTS LIST

Name:	Gift:	Purchased:	Spent:
		-	

Black Friday Shopping Planner

			TIME
STORE	ITEM	PRICE	OPEN/AVAILABLE
			TIME
			TIME
STORE	ITEM	PRICE	OPEN/AVAILABLE
			TIME
STORE	ITEM	PRICE	
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Black Friday Shopping Planner

			TIME
STORE	ITEM	PRICE	OPEN/AVAILABLE
			TIME
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STORE	ITEM	PRICE	OPEN/AVAILABLE
			TIME
STORE	ITEM	PRICE	OPEN/AVAILABLE

CYBER MONDAY SHOPPING PLANNER

WEBSITE	ITEM	PRICE	WHEN DEAL AVAILABLE
WEBSITE	ITEM	PRICE	WHEN DEAL AVAILABLE
WEBSITE	ITEM	PRICE	WHEN DEAL AVAILABLE

CYBER MONDAY SHOPPING PLANNER

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WEBSITE	ITEM	PRICE	WHEN DEAL AVAILABLE
WEBSITE	ITEM	PRICE	WHEN DEAL AVAILABLE

Holiday Events: Special Dates and Events to Remember

Event:	Address:	Date:	Time:	Cost:
	٨	IOTES:		

POTLUCK HOST MENU PLANNING

UAII	E:	# GUESTS:	
APPETIZERS:	WHO IS BRINGING:	NOTES:	
SOUPS & SALADS:	WHO IS BRINGING:	NOTES:	
SIDE DISHES:	WHO IS BRINGING:	NOTES:	
SAUCES & DRINKS:	WHO IS BRINGING:	NOTES:	
	WHO IS BRINGING:	NOTES:	
BREADS:	WHO IS BRINGING:	NOTES:	
DESSERTS:	WHO IS BRINGING:	NOTES:	
			

HOLIDAY PARTY PLANNING

EVENT:		# GUESTS:
DATE:	TIME:	
LOCATION:		
GUEST LIST:		
DECORATIONS:		
DECORATIONS.		
		
		
		
ACTIVITIES:		
ACTIVITIES.		
		· ····
MENU:		
MENU.		
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TO DO LIST:		
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CHRISTMAS MENU PLANNING

RECIPE SOURCE:	NOTES:
RECIPE SOURCE:	NOTES:
	RECIPE SOURCE: RECIPE SOURCE: RECIPE SOURCE:

GROCERIES LIST

Fresh vegetables	Fresh fruits	Dairy	Baking
			0
			Baked Goods
	Spices & herbs		
Frozen			
			Desserts
	Condiments / Sauces		
Seafood		Meat/Protein	
			Snacks
Misc Groceries	Canned Foods	Seafood	
			Beverages

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Made In A Pinch

New Year's Planning Checklist

FIRST WEEK OF DECEMBER

Begin plans now because this entire month is busy!	
Drop off any festive outfits that need to be dry cleaned	

Plan the holiday menus	and	guest l	ists;	order	any	turkeys,	hams	or	speci	alty
meats/foods		_				_			·	

- \Box Plan out your baking collect recipe and determine quantities
- \square Set the date and send out invitations (verbal, email, or mail)

SECOND WEEK OF DECEMBER

- ☐ Confirm guest list
- □ Finish planning the holiday menus and assign any contribution dishes to family members and guests (especially if you're planning a potluck).

LAST WEEK OF DECEMBER (after Christmas)

□ Plan your contribution for the party and do your grocery shopping about 3 days before the party

DAY BEFORE THE PARTY

- □ Clean the house straighten up from the holiday, sweep, vacuum, mop, bathrooms and dust
- □ Prepare any of your contribution dishes that you can to make the party preparation easier.

PARTY DAY

 \square Enjoy the party!



HOLIDAY PARTY PLANNING

EVENT:		# GUESTS:
DATE:	TIME:	
LOCATION:		
GUEST LIST:		
DECORATIONS:		
DECORATIONS.		
		
		
		
ACTIVITIES:		
ACTIVITIES.		
		· ····
MENU:		
MENU.		
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TO DO LIST:		
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POTLUCK HOST MENU PLANNING

UAII	E:	# GUESTS:	
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SAUCES & DRINKS:	WHO IS BRINGING:	NOTES:	
	WHO IS BRINGING:	NOTES:	
BREADS:	WHO IS BRINGING:	NOTES:	
DESSERTS:	WHO IS BRINGING:	NOTES:	
			

POTLUCK HOST MENU PLANNING

UAIt	::	# GUESTS:
APPETIZERS:	WHO IS BRINGING:	NOTES:
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SAUCES & DRINKS:	WHO IS BRINGING:	NOTES:
	WHO IS BRINGING:	NOTES:
BREADS:	WHO IS BRINGING:	NOTES:
DESSERTS:	WHO IS BRINGING:	NOTES:
		

GROCERIES LIST

Fresh vegetables	Fresh fruits	Dairy	Baking
			0
			Baked Goods
	Spices & herbs		
Frozen			
			Desserts
0	Condiments / Sauces		
Seafood		Meat/Protein	
			Snacks
Misc Groceries	Canned Foods	Seafood	
			Beverages

Tips & Resources

- If you prefer to use apps instead of paper for keeping track of your gifts, here are a few free apps to check out to help you stay organized!
 - o iOS Apps
 - Santa's Bag keep track of just what each person wants, how many gifts you've gotten them, how much you want to spend, and even if you've wrapped the gift or not
 - Gift It You can rank your gift lists in order of completeness so that you know who you have to seriously shop for.
 - GiftPlanner the Granddaddy of all the gift-list apps. It covers all holidays, events, and birthdays you have to buy for; lets you balance the budget for each; has a bookmarklet that adds items to your lists while you browse online; and can even send gift cards from right from the app. Also, if you're awful at remembering what gift is for who after it's wrapped, you can snap a photo and store the info.

Android Apps

- Christmas Gift List Buying and budgeting is made easy (for this year and next year) since this app archives your list to remind you of the favorite items of your favorite people. I love that this app is also password-protected to keep what's wrapped up under wraps.
- Christmas List Snowball keep your stress from snowballing with this app. It shows a summary, including the user's budget and actual money spent, how many people are still giftless, how many recipients are over budget, and who's receiving the most expensive gift. Once purchased, each gift can be checked off as wrapped and ready to go.

THANK YOU for using this packet! It's time to make your life easier in other areas as well! Please use the code THANKYOU in my shop to receive 20% off any item! www.madeinapinch.com/shop