



Remember what's good.™

## December 2004

## The Perfect Holiday Homecoming

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

**1**  
Put yourself on a strict holiday budget.

**2**  
Get ready for Hanukkah! Stock up on Hanukkah books, chocolate gelt, dreidels, and candles.

**3**  
Get ready for your Christmas tree decorating party. Whether it's just family or includes a load of friends, here's a fun menu that will get everyone in the Christmas spirit.

**4**  
Time to put those Christmas lights up outside your home.

**5**  
Get to work on your menus for Christmas Eve and Christmas day.

**6**  
Take down that Thanksgiving wreath and replace it with a Christmas one. Alter your home décor from fall-themed to winter-themed.

**7**  
Tonight's the first night of Hanukkah. Break out that menorah and light the candles in honor of the festival of lights.

**8**  
Finalize your décor for Christmas dinner. Decide on the place settings, centerpieces, and other tabletop decorations.

**9**  
Don't let yourself get too caught up in the stress of the season. Get back to the basics with these fun and easy homemade holiday crafts for parents and children alike.

**10**  
With only three weeks until Christmas day, all the gifts that you need to ship should be boxed, wrapped, and brought to the post office today.

**11**  
Christmas may be on your mind, but don't forget about New Years! Start getting your plans finalized to ring in the new year with friends and family.

**12**  
Buy your 2005 calendars and day runners. There are sure to be appointments made for January and, without a calendar, you have nowhere to record them.

**13**  
Start putting some of the presents under the Christmas tree and in holiday stockings. While you may want to keep the kids' presents well-hidden, the visible gifts add to the giving spirit of the season.

**14**  
Get started on those Christmas cookies that the kids are sure to love.  
  
Get some creative holiday cookie ideas for kids:

**15**  
Make sure your Christmas menu is finalized. Print out all your recipes and read them through for clarity. Get started on your shopping list for Christmas dinner.

**16**  
Make a list with two columns; one with all the people you've already purchased Christmas gifts for and the other with people for whom you've yet to buy. Do a thorough review of your address book to see if there's anyone you've forgotten to include in either column of your list.

**17**  
Do you or your kids plan to go caroling on Christmas Eve? Or do you just plan on singing those classic songs at home? Either way, you need to know the words.

**18**  
It's the last weekend before Christmas! If you need to go shopping for gifts (as most of America does) consider shying away from the mall and frequenting the neighborhood mom-and-pop stores. They'll be less crowded and full of helpful workers.

**19**  
Only a week to go until Kwanzaa. Start thinking about your Kwanzaa menu with these creative food ideas which honor this special holiday, [click here](#)

**20**  
If you plan on traveling, for the holidays, now's the time to make sure everything will go off without a hitch. If you're driving, have your car inspected. If you're flying, call the airline to confirm your flights.

**21**  
Happy winter solstice! Celebrate the shortest day of the year and the official start of winter with the lighting of holiday candles.

**22**  
Make the trek to the supermarket for your Christmas food shopping. Don't forget to take that list with you! And give some extra thought as to whether any of your guests have dietary restrictions that will require you to make separate dishes.

**23**  
Clean the house in preparation for your guests. If you have family members staying for an extended period of time, make sure you have enough pillows, blankets, and clean sheets for them.

**24**  
Do a final present check. Do you have a gift for everyone attending? Are your stockings full with goodies? Do you have the gifts "from Santa" set aside? And don't forget to put the cookies out for Santa tonight!

**25**  
Ho, ho, ho! Meeerrrry Christmas! Spend this day with family and friends, enjoying the loving and giving nature of the season.

**26**  
Happy Kwanzaa! Learn more about the history of this African-American holiday, [click here](#)

**27**  
While you may be exhausted from the Christmas craze, there's only days to go until New Years! Double-check that your plans are still firm.

**28**  
Go through that stack of Christmas presents you opened and decide which ones are keepers. The others can't get back to the store fast enough. Don't forget to try everything on before deciding what to do with it.

**29**  
Don't forget to stock up on champagne and party favors for your New Years celebration.

**30**  
Take advantage of those post-Christmas sales at your local stores. Consider buying holiday decorations for next year – they're available at steep discounts if you act now.

**31**  
Time to finalize those New Years resolutions. While you don't have to start sticking to them until tomorrow, it's always good to get them in writing.