

The Holiday Home & Heart Planner



Thanksgiving Edition





About the Holiday Home & Heart Series

The Holiday Home & Heart Planner series was created to help you approach each season with peace, purpose, and praise. Inside you'll find practical lists and faith-filled reflections that turn ordinary preparations into moments filled with grace. Each edition is designed to calm the chaos, celebrate simple joys, and remind you that a peaceful home begins with a grateful heart.

**Simplify the season, strengthen your faith, and find peace in the heart of your home.
by Elizabeth May of The Self Cleaning House**

*“Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.”
— Psalm 100 : 4*

Welcome



Every year, Thanksgiving seems to arrive faster than we expect. But it doesn't have to catch us off guard anymore!

This planner grew out of years of scribbled lists, turkey schedules, and laughter echoing through a busy kitchen. It's here to bring order without losing joy—to help you prepare your home and heart for gratitude.



*"Give thanks in all
circumstances; for this is God's
will for you in Christ Jesus."
— 1 Thessalonians 5 : 18*



Three Weeks Ahead – Prepare with Peace

- ☐ **Make guest list**
- ☐ **Plan menu and delegate dishes**
- ☐ **Create grocery list**
- ☐ **Buy turkey (1 lb per adult, ½ lb per child, extra for leftovers)**
- ☐ **Clean garage fridge and freezer, if you have one**



*Faith Focus: Begin praying over your home and guests.
Ask God to fill your gathering with His peace.*

*"You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you."
— Isaiah 26 : 3*

Two Weeks Ahead – Make Space for Blessing

- ☐ Count plates, silverware, glasses
- ☐ Iron napkins and tablecloth
- ☐ Plan your centerpieces and shop for what you need
- ☐ Check to be sure you have enough serving pieces
- ☐ Declutter Living Room, Dining Room and Kitchen
- ☐ Make place cards
- ☐ Count chairs and table space

 **Family Involvement:** Invite your children to make name cards or fold napkins. They'll feel proud to help and you'll be creating lifelong memories together.

*"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."
— Proverbs 22 : 6*

One Week Ahead – Prepare the House and Heart

- ☐ **Thaw turkey in refrigerator**
- ☐ **Clean refrigerator and pantry. Time to toss the leftovers!**
- ☐ **Plan cooking timeline**
- ☐ **Check your supply of coffee, tea, creamer and other beverages**

 **Faith Focus: A peaceful home begins with a grateful heart.**

*"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts... And be thankful."
— Colossians 3 :15*



Two Days Before – Bake and Bless

- ☐ Bake pies, breads, and desserts
- ☐ Polish silver and glassware
- ☐ Chill beverages
- ☐ Deep-clean guest rooms and bathrooms
- ☐ Arrange centerpieces
- ☐ Double check your timeline for each dish to be prepared
- ☐ Match each dish with its serving dish and utensil (sticky notes work perfectly!)

*"Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him."
— Psalm 34:8*



One Day Before – The Calm Before the Feast

- ☐ Prep/Make stuffing and side dishes. This is why you cleaned out the fridge!
- ☐ Peel potatoes; store covered in cold water
- ☐ Make gravy*
- ☐ Set the table–flip dishes upside down if you have pets or littles!
- ☐ Light candles to test wicks
- ☐ Get the turkey in the brine
- ☐ Work backwards from dinner time to plan when the turkey needs to go in the oven
- ☐ Get your Thanksgiving playlist ready–music sets the mood!
- ☐ Dust
- ☐ Tidy entryway and front door area inside and out. It is your home's first impression!
- ☐ Pray over your home

****Find my Make-Ahead Gravy recipe on the Self Cleaning House blog***

*"Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."
— 1 Corinthians 10:31*



Thanksgiving Morning – Peace, Not Perfection

Put on your apron so you don't ruin your pretty clothes!

- ☐ **Put turkey in at the predetermined time.**
- ☐ **Warm side dishes- crock pots are great!**
- ☐ **Make the mashed potatoes**
- ☐ **Put clean kitchen towels out**
- ☐ **Remove non-essential items from the counter tops for more space**
- ☐ **Make coffee-have a cup!**
- ☐ **Fill pitcher with ice water**
- ☐ **Assign seats with place cards. (You don't want Aunt Bethany next to Grampa this year!)**
- ☐ **Refresh bathrooms with clean towels**
- ☐ **Check to make sure everything is tidy**
- ☐ **Set music and lighting**
- ☐ **Choose someone to say the blessing and give them a little notice**
- ☐ **Take a deep breath and give thanks**

 **Include Your Children: Let them help light candles or set the table.
They'll remember the laughter and belonging more than the menu.**

*"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever."
— Psalm 136 :1*



Menu Plan

Plan your Thanksgiving meal by course

Appetizers

Main Dishes

Sides

Breads & Rolls

Desserts

Drinks

A little planning makes room for a peaceful meal



Write your guests' names, what they're bringing, and any quick notes

Guest Name	Bringing	Notes



Write your guests' names, what they're bringing, and any quick notes

Guest Name	Bringing	Notes

Notes & Memories

Reflect on what worked well this year—the dishes everyone loved, the laughter shared, the blessings God made known, and the prayers He answered.

"Remember the wonders He has done." — Psalm 105 :5



Ideas for Next Year

Space for jotting décor ideas, recipes to test, or new traditions to start.



"See, I am doing a new thing!" — Isaiah 43 :19



Closing Reflection

**Thanksgiving isn't just one day—it's a rhythm of gratitude
that carries us through every season.
May this planner help you prepare not just your table but your heart.**

May your home be filled with peace, your table with joy, and your heart with gratitude.

— Elizabeth May, The Self Cleaning House

"From His fullness we have all received grace upon grace." — John 1 :16