

LET'S ROCK THE HOLIDAYS WITH DAILY MISSIONS



BY TAMI FOX

Let's Rock the Holidays
With Daily Missions
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Let's Rock Our Routines and Get Ready for the Holidays!

Dear Friend,

You might be overwhelmed thinking about all you need to get done for the Holiday Season, and this year you want to avoid putting things off until the last minute like you have done in the past. Some of my best Christmas seasons were the ones where I did small tasks over the months of November and December rather than waiting until the week before Christmas.

One year I even accomplished having all of my Christmas shopping finished before Thanksgiving. I had it wrapped and under the tree before December 1. That was a wonderful December leading into Christmas. I want to help you keep a balance of getting ready for Thanksgiving and Christmas and enjoying both seasons this year. I have worked up a calendar with daily missions to help you through the months of November, December, and January. The missions are scheduled to help you prepare, enjoy, and clean up.

During the first week-end of November, I want you to sit down and talk to your family about traditions that you enjoy and want to keep doing. I want you to make a list of things you can do as a family to bless someone else. Many people spend the Holidays alone. Many elderly people do not have visitors or get Christmas cards. Think about these people as you develop your list of traditions.

As you are making your gift list, write down things you would like to make for gifts. Also, include your children in this list making. They can make gifts for special people in their lives, too. You can also list Christmas crafts that you think your children would enjoy doing and try to incorporate it into their gifts for others. Set a budget for your Christmas gift-giving. Be sure to include the costs of gifts you will be making. Shop the sales for items you need to purchase. Get your online shopping done early, so you are not in a bind waiting on items to arrive at the last minute. Write down dates to mail packages.

Write down special family recipes you would like to make for others and include a copy of the recipe when you deliver it. Pick a date for a Family Baking Day for this, and then have a family delivery day. This is a great way to bless others and show that you care without giving them more clutter.

Let's make this a Blessed and Relaxed Holiday Season!

First Make a Gift List and Set a Budget



Things to do to Prepare for the Holidays

- Kids' Rooms Decluttered (Clothes, Shoes, and Toys)
- Send Kids' Sizes to Relatives (Help Grandparents with their gift giving)
- Kids write Letters to Santa (Wish List)
- Menu Planning for the Holidays
- Baking for the Holidays
- Get ingredients weekly with grocery list starting now
- Cook double now, so you can freeze meals to use in December
- Make a list for big gifts for the family
- Make a List of Clutter-free gifts
- Gifts to Bless the Home
- Gift Wrapping Station (Organize gift wrapping supplies)
- Stocking Stuffers
- Take Inventory of Christmas decorations – needs – lights, tinsel, hooks, ornaments, wrapping paper, tape, bows, cards, bags, tissue paper
- Box up ornaments for young adult children (Declutter and pass on memories)
- Ideas for Gifts to Make
 - Family Recipes in a Book
 - Comfort Meal Recipes in a Book
 - Café Mocha in a Mug as a Gift
 - Bath Salts
 - Fizzy Balls
 - Needlework or Sewn Items
 - Cookies
 - Breads and Cakes

Children's Sizes

Child #1: Shirt Size: _____ Pants Size: _____ Shoe Size: _____

For Girls: Dress Size: _____

Wish List Items: _____

Child #2: Shirt Size: _____ Pants Size: _____ Shoe Size: _____

For Girls: Dress Size: _____

Wish List Items: _____

Child #3: Shirt Size: _____ Pants Size: _____ Shoe Size: _____

For Girls: Dress Size: _____

Wish List Items: _____

Child #4: Shirt Size: _____ Pants Size: _____ Shoe Size: _____

For Girls: Dress Size: _____

Wish List Items: _____

Child #5: Shirt Size: _____ Pants Size: _____ Shoe Size: _____

For Girls: Dress Size: _____

Wish List Items: _____

Child #6: Shirt Size: _____ Pants Size: _____ Shoe Size: _____

For Girls: Dress Size: _____

Wish List Items: _____

Menu Planning for Thanksgiving



Appetizers:

Main Dish:

Side Items:

Baked Goods / Bread:

Desserts:

Others:

Menu Planning for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day



Appetizers:

Main Dish:

Side Items:

Baked Goods / Bread:

Desserts:

Others:

Menu Planning for New Year's Eve and New Year's Day



Appetizers:

Main Dish:

Side Items:

Baked Goods / Bread:

Desserts:

Others:

Holiday Missions

On the calendar, you will see the ideas I have for you for Daily Missions. You can tweak this to make it work for you and your schedule. I purposefully plan for us to do special Holiday Missions each year as a part of our school day. In December, our school load is lighter, and we are able to go out and do things in the community for others. Nursing homes appreciate visits by children. The residents are especially blessed if your children sing or play games with them. The residents also appreciate hand-made cards and drawings by children.

As you are planning your week, think of the days of the week in this way:

- Monday – Cling and Fling
- Tuesday – Plan and Play
- Wednesday – Anti-Procrastination Day
- Thursday – GO and DO
- Friday – Budget and Don't Begrudge It

On Monday, fling the things you have been clinging to. Declutter and bless someone else with your excess. Encourage your children to do this, too.

On Tuesday, do something to help you plan for the Holidays and plan to have some play time with your children. The best gift we can give our children is our time.

On Wednesday, do something you have been putting off. Procrastination is a joy-stealer. Stop putting off projects. Set your timer for 15 minutes and play beat the clock.

On Thursday, follow up on your plans. Go out and visit someone with your children. Take your children somewhere and play. Put action to your plans on Thursday.

On Friday, pay bills. Review your Holiday budget, and when you shop, stick to your budget. Don't begrudge the fact that you have a budget. There is much freedom to be found in budgeting and sticking to it.

Holiday Missions

On the next three pages, you will have a copy of the calendar I developed to help you spread out the Holiday Missions. This is just a guide for you. It's to help you divide up things you want to do for the Holidays over several weeks. You will have more time to enjoy the Holidays by doing small steps at a time.

You can't let your weekly routines stop while you are doing these missions. You don't want the house to fall apart around you while you are getting ready for the Holidays. The Holiday Missions are divided up into Zones to correspond with the Zones you need to maintain with your daily routines. This is to help you maximize your decorating time and your time to clean your home. If you are not familiar with Zone cleaning, check out [The FlyLady](#) and sign up for her emails. She will set you free from drudgery of cleaning and help you divide your home into Zones for blessing your home and family. She will teach you about the Weekly Home Blessing Hour to help you keep your home clean without a lot of stress.

Most of all, I want you to use these ideas to help you have a stress-free Holiday, so you can enjoy your family. This is the time of year when we build memories. Let's make these some of the best memories of their lives. You are tying heart-strings with how you celebrate the Holidays. When your children are grown, you may even see them carry on some of your traditions.

NOVEMBER 2015

HOLIDAY MISSIONS _____

YOU CAN DO THIS! _____

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT/SUN
Living Room ZONE 5						1 Enjoy your Family Fun Day on Saturday and Day of Rest on Sunday
	notes					Buy Christmas Cards & Take a Family Picture
Porch & Entry ZONE 1	2 Sweep Porch Put Out Fall Decor	3 Detail Clean the Entry Way Put Out Fall Decor	4 Clear Flat Surfaces in Dining Room Put Out Some Fall Flowers	5 Sign Christmas Cards, Affix Label and Stamp	6 Add items needed for Thanksgiving Desserts to Weekly Grocery List	7/8 Enjoy your Family Fun Day on Saturday and Day of Rest on Sunday
	notes Print Address Labels	Order Prints of Your Family Picture	Start a Menu for Thanksgiving	Check Pantry for Recipes for Desserts	Date Night / Start Christmas List and Set Budget	Work on Gifts You are Making for Christmas
Kitchen ZONE 2	9 Put Out Fall Towels and Décor in Your Kitchen Christmas Cards	10 Spend 15 Minutes Putting Out the Kitchen Hot Spots Christmas Cards	11 Pull Out Thanksgiving Serving Pieces and Clean/Wash	12 Add to Your Shopping List Items Needed for Table Service for Thanksgiving	13 Add Items to Your Weekly Grocery List for Thanksgiving Baking Christmas Cards	14/15 Enjoy your Family Fun Day on Saturday and Day of Rest on Sunday
	notes Christmas Crafts with Kids for Gifts	Christmas Crafts with Kids for Gifts	Review Menu for Baking	Check Pantry for Items Needed for Baking	Date Night	Work on Gifts You are Making for Christmas
Main Bath ZONE 3	16 Put Out Fall Towels and a Fall Candle in Your Main Bathroom	17 Declutter Counter Tops and Drawers in the Main Bathroom	18 Check Menu for Next Week and Add Items to Grocery List	19 Do a 15-minute Room Rescue in Any Room in the House	20 Get Items for Entrée and Sides Start Food Prep that Can Be Done Ahead.	21/22 Enjoy your Family Fun Day on Saturday and Day of Rest on Sunday
	notes Christmas Crafts with Kids for Gifts	Christmas Crafts for Kids for Gifts	Review Menu for Main Entrée and Side Dishes	Put Out the Rest of Your Fall Decorations	Line Up a Baby-Sitting for Next Friday / Date Night	Work on Gifts You are Making for Christmas
Master Bedroom ZONE 4	23 Start Any Food Prep that Can Be Done Ahead of Time. Use Your Freezer.	24 Do Your Baking for Thursday that Can Be Done Early	25 Do Any Meal Prep or Veggie Chopping that You Can Do Ahead of Time	26 Happy Thanksgiving!	27 Plan a Shopping Date with Your Hubby; Get a Baby-Sitter Mail Christmas Cards	28/29 Enjoy your Family Fun Day on Saturday and Day of Rest on Sunday
	notes Let kids make place cards for Thanksgiving meal	Let the kids help with the baking	Have the kids make a Happy Thanksgiving sign		Black Friday Sales / Date Night	Week-end Sales Online
Living Room ZONE 5	30 Decorate Your Coffee Table and Side Tables					
	notes Cyber Monday Sales					

DECEMBER 2015

HOLIDAY
MISSIONS _____

YOU CAN DO
THIS! _____

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT/SUN
ZONE 1 Porch & Entry		1 Detail Clean the Entry Way Put Out Christmas Decorations and Wreath	2 Sweep Porch Put Out Christmas Décor	3 Clear Flat Surfaces in Dining Room Put Out Christmas Decorations	4 Set Up a Christmas Wrapping Station Add Items to Your Weekly Grocery List for Christmas Desserts	5/6 Enjoy your Family Fun Day on Saturday by Decorating Your Tree and Watch a Christmas Movie and Day of Rest on Sunday
	notes	Watch a Christmas Movie	Read a Christmas Book	Watch a Christmas Movie	Date Night	Wrap Presents
ZONE 2 Kitchen	7 Put Out Your Holiday Towels and Candles in the Kitchen	8 Clear Off Kitchen Hot Spots and Display Your Christmas Cards	9 Work on Your Christmas Menu and Check Pantry	10 Do 15-minute Room Rescue in the Kitchen	11 Add Items to Your Weekly Grocery List for Christmas Baking	12/13 Enjoy your Family Fun Day on Saturday and Visit Someone Day of Rest on Sunday
	notes Finish Online Shopping	Watch a Christmas Movie	Start Buying Items Needed for Holiday Meal	Read a Christmas Book	Date Night	Wrap Presents
ZONE 3 Main Bath	14 Put Out Christmas Towels and Candles in Your Main Bathroom	15 Spend 15 Minutes Decluttering in Bathroom Bake Cookies for a Gift for Someone	16 Take The Cookies You Baked Yesterday	17 Add to Your Shopping List Items Needed for Table Service for Christmas	18 Add Items to Your Weekly Grocery List for Christmas Entrée and Side Items Do a Room Rescue in The Bathroom	19/20 Enjoy your Family Fun Day on Saturday and Visit Someone Day of Rest on Sunday
	notes Read a Christmas Book	Watch a Christmas Movie	Make a Menu Plan for New Year's Eve	Read a Christmas Book	Date Night	Wrap Presents
ZONE 4 Master Bedroom	21 Start Your Christmas Baking Do a Room Rescue in the Master Bedroom	22 Start Your Christmas Desserts	23 Work on Food Prep that Can be Done Ahead of Time for Christmas Eve or Christmas Day	24 If you don't have a plan for celebration today, go visit someone who will be alone for Christmas.	25 Merry Christmas!	26/27 Enjoy your Family Fun Day on Saturday Day of Rest on Sunday
	notes Read a Christmas Book	Watch a Christmas Movie	Read the Story of Christmas	Christmas Eve	First Day of Christmas	Second & Third Day of Christmas
ZONE 5 Living Room	28 27 – Fling Boogie in Your Living Room	29 27 – Fling Boogie in the Bedrooms	30 27 – Fling Boogie in the Dining Room	31 New Year's Eve Have a Finger Food and Movie Night		
	notes Fourth Day of Christmas	Fifth Day of Christmas	Sixth Day of Christmas	Seventh Day of Christmas		

JANUARY 2016

HOLIDAY MISSIONS _____

YOU CAN DO THIS! _____

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT/SUN
ZONE 1 Porch & Entry					1 Happy New Year! Have a Special Meal and Family Fun Day	2/3 Enjoy your Family Fun Day on Saturday and Day of Rest on Sunday
	notes				Eighth Day of Christmas	Ninth and Tenth Days of Christmas
ZONE 2 Kitchen	4 Put Away Holiday Towels and Decorations from the Kitchen	5 Collect Holiday Candles & Towels Throughout the House and Put Away	6 Take Down the Decorations from Your Porch	7 Take Down Decorations in Entry Way	8 Take Down Your Christmas Tree	9/10 Enjoy your Family Fun Day on Saturday and Day of Rest on Sunday
	Eleventh Day of Christmas	Twelfth Day of Christmas			Date Night	
ZONE 3 Main Bath	11 Clean the Countertops in Your Bathroom and Declutter Items You Don't Need	12 Clean the Shower and Tub	13 Wipe Around the Toilet	14 Clean Windows and Blinds in the Bathroom	15 Declutter Drawers and Cabinets in the Bathroom	16/17 Enjoy your Family Fun Day on Saturday and Day of Rest on Sunday
	notes				Date Night	
ZONE 4 Master Bedroom	18 Clean Top of the Dresser and Detail Dust. Only Put Back Things That Make You Smile.	19 Clean Off the Nightstand and Detail Dust. Declutter the Stack on Your Nightstand.	20 Detail Dust Around the Ceiling, Baseboards, and Fan	21 Declutter the Drawers in Your Dresser	22 Declutter in Your Closet	23/24 Enjoy your Family Fun Day on Saturday and Day of Rest on Sunday
	notes				Date Night	
ZONE 5 Living Room	25 Clear Off Flat Surfaces and Detail Dust	26 Move Furniture and Vacuum Under It	27 Go Sofa Diving	28 Add Some Décor and Color to Your Living Room	29 Dust Fixtures and Baseboards	30/31 Enjoy your Family Fun Day on Saturday and Day of Rest on Sunday
	notes				Date Night	

About the Author



Photo: [Shane Greene Photography](#)

Tami lives in rural North Carolina with her husband of more than twenty-five years and their children. She has been a home educator since 2000. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Health Information Systems and uses her education to be a better teacher for her children. Tami is a writer and speaker to encourage moms. She writes reviews and other details about her life with her family at www.TamiFox.net. She is in the trenches just like you and takes life one step at a time with mercy and grace. You can contact Tami through her blog or through email at Tami@TamiFox.com.

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