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Checklist for Hosting Thanksgiving Day

4 WEEKS BEFORE THANKSGIVING

- ☐ Invite your guests.
- ☐ Begin planning out your centerpiece and decorations and start purchasing items you'll need.
- ☐ If you have a housekeeper, schedule her for the Tuesday or Wednesday of Thanksgiving week.

3 WEEKS BEFORE THANKSGIVING

- ☐ Reserve tables, chairs, tableware and silverware if you have a large group joining you.
- ☐ Determine the size of turkey you'll need for the day, and decide if you want turkey leftovers.
- ☐ Purchase a frozen turkey and store it in your freezer. Or, order a fresh turkey to be picked up Thanksgiving week.
- ☐ Check to make sure you have all the spices and other staples you'll need for the meal.
- ☐ Create your Thanksgiving menu and consider what guests (who offer) could bring.

2 WEEKS BEFORE THANKSGIVING

- ☐ Prepare any of your Thanksgiving side dishes, desserts, breads or rolls that can be frozen.
- ☐ If you will be using silver serving ware or flatware, take a day to get it all polished up.
- ☐ Purchase everything except items that must be fresh: frozen foods, soda, tea, coffee and canned goods.
- ☐ Stock the bar.
- ☐ Decide how you will cook turkey and make preparations if needed.

1 WEEK BEFORE THANKSGIVING

- ☐ Iron your tablecloths and napkins.
- ☐ Make your place cards if you will be using them
- ☐ Clean your refrigerator so you'll have plenty of room for your Thanksgiving foods and leftovers.
- ☐ Check back to remember which day you must start thawing turkey safely.

2 DAYS BEFORE THANKSGIVING

- ☐ Purchase the rest of your grocery list: fresh items like produce, cheese, left-overs ingredients and flowers.
- ☐ Create your centerpiece and set your table now, if possible.
- ☐ Make your pies and cube bread for stuffing (let it dry but do not make stuffing in advance).
- ☐ Wash produce.
- ☐ Calculate your turkey cooking time.

1 DAY BEFORE THANKSGIVING

- ☐ Set out all your serving ware and label each with what you will be serving in it.
- ☐ Make certain your turkey is thawed completely.
- ☐ Make side dishes that you haven't already prepared and frozen.
- ☐ Thaw any dishes you prepared that are in the freezer.
- ☐ Take a little time to do something relaxing for yourself.

DAY OF THANKSGIVING

- ☐ Prepare stuffing
- ☐ Pre-heat oven and cook turkey
- ☐ Cook and mash potatoes. Keep them in a crockpot set on low.
- ☐ An hour before dinner, fill water glasses with ice.
- ☐ While turkey is cooling in its juices, heat side dishes and make gravy.
- ☐ Carve the turkey.
- ☐ Take desserts out of the refrigerator.
- ☐ Place all the food on a buffet or the table.
- ☐ Gather everyone around the table to offer thanks to God.
- ☐ Sit and enjoy the beauty of sharing such a wonderful meal with those you love!