# THE BUSY MOM'S

## THANKSGIVING PLANNING CHECKLIST

A little planning, a little grace, and more room to enjoy the holiday.

### 3 WEEKS BEFORE THANKSGIVING

- ■ Decide where Thanksgiving will be hosted
- ■ Create your guest list
- ■ Set a holiday budget
- ■ Plan your Thanksgiving menu
- ■ Ask family what dishes they can bring
- ■ Check pantry staples and make a grocery list
- ■ Plan Thanksgiving outfits for the family

### 2 WEEKS BEFORE THANKSGIVING

- ■ Purchase nonperishable groceries
- ■ Order your turkey or ham
- ■ Shop for decorations and tableware
- ■ Plan your Thanksgiving tablescape
- ■ Clean out the refrigerator and freezer
- ■ Make a holiday playlist
- ■ Confirm guests and food contributions
- ■ Plan activities for the kids

### 1 WEEK BEFORE THANKSGIVING

- ■ Deep-clean the kitchen and dining area
- ■ Wash tablecloths and napkins
- ■ Purchase fresh ingredients
- ■ Prepare desserts that can be frozen
- ■ Thaw frozen turkey safely in the refrigerator
- ■ Organize serving dishes and utensils
- ■ Set up your Thanksgiving centerpiece
- ■ Write down your cooking schedule

### THE DAY BEFORE THANKSGIVING

- ■ Prep vegetables and ingredients
- ■ Make desserts and make-ahead side dishes
- ■ Prepare casseroles that can be refrigerated
- ■ Set the Thanksgiving table
- ■ Season and prepare the turkey
- ■ Arrange drinks and beverages
- ■ Charge your phone and camera
- ■ Take a moment for a little self-care

## THANKSGIVING DAY

- Start cooking according to your schedule
- Warm up prepared dishes
- Get dressed before guests arrive
- Put out appetizers and drinks
- Welcome family and friends
- Take pictures and make memories
- Give thanks for the little things
- Enjoy your meal—you deserve it, mama!

## A LITTLE THANKSGIVING SELF-CARE

- Take 10 minutes just for yourself
- Enjoy your favorite seasonal drink
- Ask for help when you need it
- Release the pressure to do everything
- Give yourself permission to rest
- Focus on memories, not perfection

*Remember, mama: Thanksgiving doesn't have to be perfect to be meaningful.*

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