

2018 *ReAdventing* CHRISTMAS Guide

Advent helps us truly celebrate on Christmas day by spending 4 weeks anticipating the gift of Jesus Christ to the world.

The suggestions & information of this guide help us “reinvent” the Advent season by focusing on the values of **mindfulness, gratitude, reflection, & compassion** amidst the noise of commercial Christmas culture.

*In that spirit,
let's “ReAdvent” together.*

ENTER THE SEASON WITH INTENTION...

Questions to Consider:

- * How can I *invest* in the wellbeing & health of others this season?
- * Where can I “say no” to help me *slow down & be more present*?
- * What is *the story* behind the gifts I'm buying? Can I find out who made it...where it was produced...how it is made...the real cost?
- * How can I give my *time and creativity* to the people I love?
- * Who needs my *resources* more than me & my immediate family/friends?

Practices to Try:

- * Daily, follow an Advent devotional or meditate on a section of the gospel story of Jesus' birth.
- * Choose a specific situation you are aware of in which people are suffering or are in great need. Pray for them and ask God for boldness to respond.
- * Give up something & track the cost you've saved. Give that amount away.
- * Wrap gifts and decorate with recycled materials.
- * Block out time now for unhurried, focused time with someone important to you.
- * Shop local for a certain percentage of your gifts (instead of buying online).
- * Think about an organization you really respect. Donate money or time in honor of someone instead of buying them a tangible present.

PAY ATTENTION ...

Our purchasing & charitable power doesn't end after Christmas. We can use our God-given resources wisely with the help of resources like the ones listed below. May we give joyfully, thoughtfully, and with grace in the new year!

VOLUNTEER MATCH:

Up-to-date inventory of current short-term or ongoing volunteer opportunities. Search to find a place to volunteer - or register to publish opportunities you're sponsoring.

volunteermatch.org

GIVEWELL:

To ensure the money you give goes to causes that have a demonstrated impact on the lives of people who are poor & vulnerable, check out Givewell, which evaluates charities and provides tips on the best organizations to donate to.

givewell.org

“SHOULD I GIVE A COW OR CASH FOR CHRISTMAS?”:

This excellent article in *Christianity Today* explores various avenues for charitable giving, encouraging support of causes that have a demonstrated impact on the poor. Read the full article here:

tinyurl.com/zlnuhug

BETTER WORLD SHOPPER:

Search categories of items you buy regularly to find out how companies rank regarding human rights, care for the environment, & animal treatment. Do Nestle, Nike, & Chiquita receive an A or an F? Rankings available in website, book, & app.

betterworldshopper.org

GOOD ON YOU:

Committed to fashion that does no harm, the Good On You app is the leading source of ratings, info, offers, & news about ethical & sustainable fashion. Learn more here or download the app:

goodonyou.eco

“WHEN HELPING HURTS: HOW TO ALLEVIATE POVERTY WITHOUT HURTING THE POOR...AND YOURSELF”:

Focusing on both North American and Majority World contexts, this honest, accessible book provides proven strategies for effective poverty alleviation, promoting idea that sustainable change comes not from the outside in, but from the inside out.

THE GOOD TRADE:

A lifestyle, travel, & culture website with many resources, tips, & brands for socially-conscious living.

thegoodtrade.com

SURVIVING PROGRESS:

What is the cost of progress? This documentary shows us how our sense of progress is hurting the planet and how we can intervene.

available on Netflix

SHOP WITH CONFIDENCE...

Giving gifts is such a special part of this time of year!

This isn't a call to stop giving gifts, but it is a call to:

be mindful about what and why we're giving,

care for our neighbor in production,

support local businesses & artists,

minimize waste & harm to the environment.

Let's give with intention and integrity.

And, by spending just a little less on gifts, we free up our resources to give to those who really need help.

ALTERNATIVE Gift Markets.

Visit these holiday markets for handmade & fair-trade items from down the street & around the world.

Friday, Nov 30 / 6-10 pm

Roots of Giving Market

Caf Lane - PLNU: 3900 Lomaland Dr.

Saturday, Dec 8 / 11am-7pm

Maker's Arcade

Downtown Broadway Pier: 1000 N. Harbor Dr.

makersarcade.com

\$5/door

Friday, Dec 14 / 11am-4pm

San Diego Made

Bread & Salt: 1955 Julian Ave

\$5/door

Saturdays, Dec 15 & 22 / 10am-5pm

SoCal Etsy Guild Holiday Bazaar

Horton Plaza Park

Saturday, Dec 22 / 9am-4pm

Ocean Beach Craft Fair

End of Newport Ave. at Abbott St.

RECOMMENDED LOCAL BUSINESSES:

Supporting local businesses puts money back in our economy, funds the work of artisans, helps us know our neighbors, & reduces the environmental transportation impact.

- * **OB Beans:** 4879 Newport Ave. / obbeans.com
- * **Noon:** 4993 Niagara Ave., Suite 105 / noonesignshop.com
- * **Gold Leaf:** 2225 30th St. / goldleafsouthpark.com
- * **Simply Local:** 3013 University Ave. / simplylocalsandiego.com
- * **SeeSaw Kids:** 3028 Cañon St. / shopseesawkids.com
- * **En Concordia:** 1021 Rosecrans St. / enconcordia.com
- * **Verbatim Books:** 3793 30th St. / verbatim-books.com
- * **Thistle:** 4822 Santa Monica Ave. / thistlegarden.com
- * **EarthWell:** 4114 Adams Ave. / earthwellrefill.com

Online Stores:

These sites provide handmade & ethically-sourced goods that support nonprofits & sustainable development projects.

- * tenthousandvillages.com: Honest wages for items made by artisans in Asia, Africa, Latin America & Middle East
- * societyb.com: Donate 10% of all sales to charity
- * everlane.com: Sweatshop-labor-free clothing & ethical factories
- * krochetkids.org: Clothing & scarves made by women in developing nations
- * humblehilo.com: Support villagers in Guatemala
- * thegivingkeys.com: Pay-it-forward gifts that help end homelessness
- * apolisglobal.com: Custom goods with mission of social responsibility
- * dear-survivor.com: Proceeds benefit Generate Hope shelter for survivors of human trafficking
- * maekceramics.com: Environmentally-friendly ceramic goods
- * imperfectproduce.com: Give a subscription to this delivery service that eliminates waste by saving "ugly" produce
- * thredup.com: Online thrift-store shopping

MAKE A DONATION... and let that be your gift!

- * **CASH GIFTS:** **Give Directly** takes advantage of easy, free modern payment-technology to give direct loans to the extreme poor. givedirectly.org
- * **CHILD SPONSORSHIP:** **Nazarene Compassionate Ministries'** sponsorship program promotes the holistic growth of children in poverty. ncm.org
- * **WATER:** **Healing Waters International** provides safe water solutions in communities affected by contaminated water. healingwaters.org
- * **HOMELESSNESS:** **San Diego Rescue Mission** operates several shelters that offer long— and short-term relief, rehabilitation, and discipleship. sdrescue.org
- * **REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT:** **International Rescue Committee** supports newly-arrived refugees fleeing conflict and natural disasters. rescue.org