

## Gifts

- \* Go for secondhand. Buy gifts at a thrift store.
- \* If you're doing a family Secret Santa, how about a rule that gifts be bought from a charity shop!
- \* Make something yourself. The personal effort makes a gift priceless!
- \* Instead of wrapping paper, use a reusable bag.
- \* Use yarn instead of ribbon.
- \* Give a membership rather than a physical gift.
- \* Give time with or doing something for another rather than a physical gift.
- \* Send ecards rather than paper cards.
- \* Handmake cards for special people.
- \* Volunteer!

## Decorating

- \* Keep those special ornaments you already have, BUT, if you add something new, make sure you think first!
- \* Avoid tinsel, glitter, metal foil – they are poisonous to pets and the environment!
- \* How about strung popcorn and cranberries and ornaments made from twigs, bark, and flowers?
- \* Instead of a wreath, your bird friends will thank you for edible ornaments like seed bells, suet, and peanut butter pinecones!
- \* Turn off your Christmas lights overnight and when you are out of the house to save energy.
- \* Use LED lights.
- \* Make your own natural table decorations.

## Food

- \* Buy local to reduce food miles.
- \* Don't buy too much.
- \* Use up leftovers.
- \* Compost vegetable waste.
- \* Reduce meat and dairy consumption.
- \* Choose organic food which uses fewer chemicals.
- \* If you will be going out or sending leftovers home with guests, have them bring their own containers.
- \* Use cloth napkins and tablecloths and real silverware.

## Recycle

- \* Batteries  
alkaline year-round @ Staples  
others year-round @ ecopark
- \* Christmas light strings  
year-round @ ecopark
- \* Real Christmas trees
- \* Paper wrap, cards, packaging

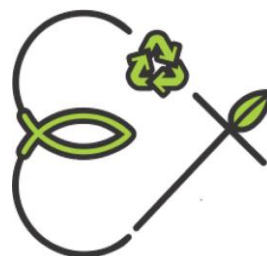
***"We all have a moral  
(and, for Catholics, a  
religious) obligation to  
take care of the Earth  
and the poorest."***

***~Pope Francis***



**This holiday season  
let's embrace the gift of  
nature and cherish the  
planet we call home.**

***Wishing you a holiday  
season filled with the  
warmth of family and the  
eco-consciousness of  
caring for our planet!***



***To get in touch with the  
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***Season's  
Greenings!  
Your Guide  
to an  
Eco-Friendly  
Holiday***



**From**

**Saint Kateri  
Tekakwitha**

**Creation Care for  
People and Planet**