Don't throw away the *Wreath*

Transition your holiday décor to Valentine's Day theme

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The Christmas tree is at the curb, the holiday decorations have been packed away for another year.

The holidays are over, and if you look around your house, it may seem stark and bare compared to the festive décor of the season.

If you're suffering from the post-holiday decorating blahs, there are ways to spruce up your home and transition it to the next holiday: Valentine's Day. Decorator and home stager Leona Piro of Act Two Home Staging in Honeoye Falls says that by repurposing existing holiday décor and using inexpensive crafts, it's easy to give your home a little pizzazz mid-winter.

Piro

Many of the live evergreen wreaths and swags used outdoors may still have some life in them. Piro suggests adding red bows and red accents. "Swap the ornaments and Santas for hearts and cupids and you've given them a new life," she says.

Poinsettia plants, which last several months, can also be converted to Valentine décor. The pink and white varieties, which have much less of the traditional holiday look than the red, work particularly well, Piro says. She currently has a large red poinsettia in her bedroom and dressed up the room with Valentine décor. You can buy seasonal Valentine ribbon and decorative pieces at a craft store that can be stuck in the potted plants.

Some of the decorative faux holiday trees can stay on the mantle. Piro added handmade heart mosaics from Mendon Flowers and Fountains and red and clear heart-shaped diamonds from Michael's to spruce up the mantle, Valentine style.

Decorating for Valentine's Day doesn't have to be expensive. Piro took a Christmas centerpiece and added fresh new flowers and red ribbons while keeping the base. You can cut out old Valentine's Day cards and children's projects to be placed in a frame for collage art.

Think big when it comes to decorating, Piro says.

Invest in one or two large heart-themed accessories for a more dramatic look. Piro has three panels painted by local artist Lorraine Staunch in her family room.

"I'm not one for tschotkes," she says.

For the lesser-celebrated holidays such as Valentine's Day, homeowners tend to buy several small items and scatter them throughout a room. But for a much greater impact, select one large piece to become a focal point and two or three smaller pieces to complement it. ❑

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JAMIE GERMANO staff photographer

Keep the red theme in your home from Christmas through Valentine's Day. Poinsettia plants can last for several months, top. Or add red and white ribbons and flowers to a Christmas tabletop centerpiece, above.