If you were to look in the furthest corner of my closet, you would discover where I store my festive attire; my gold metallic jacket, my sequined tank top, my gold shimmery blouse and a couple of other items. While I really like these pieces, I only wear them during November, December, and January because they are my official holi-wear (holiday celebration wear-all of which can be worn with my favorite pair of black pants).

When this season comes around each year, I enjoy dressing myself as much as I enjoy dressing my Christmas tree. Of course, if I were a super star, I could 'rock' this kind of clothing year round (but my oldest daughter keeps begging me not to; especially not the gold jacket!) The thing about my holi-wear, is that after attending a few holiday parties and indulging in a few too many baked goods, I'm finding that the fit of my gear has changed (I think it shrunk in the wash; that's the story I'm sticking to!)

If you have discovered your favorite holiday outfit has inexplicably become snug, ill-fitting, or outdated, no worries! I have a few budget-minded suggestions that may help you achieve the glam-factor for the remainder of the holiday season.

Instant holiday slimming undergarments

If you've found a few extra pounds hiding on your body, don't panic. Instead, head to your local department or discount store for the newest slimming undergarments and shapers; camis, slips, unitards, and briefs (they even have a slimming tank for men to contain the beer-belly). Wear your new smoothing slimmer under your old holi-wear and enjoy fewer bulges and more confidence. I just picked up a Flexees brand camisole for around $22 at Kohl's (on sale, with

extra 30%-off coupon-you know how I do).

Hot holiday slimming styles

If you are in the market for a new outfit for the employee Christmas party, dazzle your coworkers with the slimming style of a wrap-around top with a v-neckline. Whether you choose a top or dress, the plunging neckline draws the eye up toward the face. In addition, the wrap-around style helps create a waistline and camouflage a thicker midsection. In fact, many manufacturers are making clothing with tummy control panels built inside of the garment. They can be found at discounted stores like Wal-Mart, as well as the high-end retailers.

Touchable holiday textures

If you want to achieve the glitz and glam look for that special New Year's Eve party, then select a shimmery blouse, with metallic threading. A top with sequins looks great peeking from underneath a slimming black jacket. You could also choose a velvety dress with draping that hides the trouble spots. Let's not forget about accessories-they always make the outfit pop; patent shoes, glittery pumps, or strappy-buckle boots, dangly earring, chunky necklaces and shiny bracelets.

Are you feeling the need to perk up your holiday look and cinch in your holiday waistline? Head over to your favorite retailer and (first try on, then) buy one of these magical slimming garments. Whether you pick up wonder-undies, or go for the outfit with the "built-ins," you'll look great, feel confident, and have much more fun getting your groove on during the festivities. Finally, once you have gotten dressed for that special evening and the mirror confirms that you are looking good on the outside, don't leave the house without the two most important garments that go with every style, every color, and every occasion; your SMILE and your LOVE.

Dear Friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. 1 John 4:7 Enjoy!
Marcia Humphrey is an interior decorator and home stager who specializes in achieving high style at low costs. A native of Michigan, she and her husband, Lonnie, have three children.
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