

The Seasons of Catholic Faith

Happy New Year! Sunday, December 3, or the first Sunday in Advent, marked the new liturgical year in the Catholic Church. The liturgical calendar commemorates the life of Jesus through the celebrations of each season. As parents, you are invited to use this resource, which provides an explanation of the liturgical calendar, the significant colors of the liturgical season and a simple liturgical calendar, with your children. ✦



- **Advent.** For four weeks prior to Christmas, Catholics prepare for the birth of Jesus.
- **Christmas.** On December 25, Catholics attend Mass in celebration of the birth of Jesus.
- **Mary, Mother of God.** On January 1, Catholics celebrate Mary as the Mother of God.
- **Epiphany.** Catholics celebrate that the three wise men brought gifts to Jesus.
- **Ordinary Time.** Catholics continue to learn about Jesus and how to follow Him.
- **Ash Wednesday.** Forty days before Easter marks Ash Wednesday, a day of fasting (reduction of food intake) and abstinence (not eating meat). Catholics receive ashes in the sign of the cross on their foreheads.
- **Lent.** During the 40 days prior to Easter, Catholics increase their prayer, almsgiving (giving to others) and fasting (reduction of food intake).
- **Feast of Saint Joseph.** On March 19, Catholics remember Jesus's earthly father, Joseph.
- **Palm Sunday.** Catholics remember Jesus's welcome to Jerusalem.
- **Holy Week.** Catholics remember Jesus's last week on earth.
- **Holy Thursday.** Catholics remember Jesus's Last Supper with His apostles.
- **Good Friday.** Catholics remember the death (crucifixion) of Jesus.
- **Easter Vigil.** New Catholics are officially welcomed into the Church by receiving the sacraments of Baptism, Holy Communion and Reconciliation.
- **Easter.** Catholics celebrate the Resurrection of Christ through beautiful Sunday liturgies.
- **Ascension.** Forty days after Easter or Ascension

Thursday, Catholics celebrate that Jesus returns to heaven.

- **Pentecost.** Fifty days after Easter, Catholics celebrate that the Holy Spirit descended on the apostles.
- **Trinity Sunday.** On the Sunday following Pentecost, Catholics celebrate the mystery of three persons (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) as one God.
- **Corpus Christi.** On the Sunday following Trinity Sunday, Catholics celebrate Jesus's presence in the blessed sacrament of the Eucharist.
- **Ordinary Time.** Catholics continue to learn about Jesus and how to follow Him.
- **Assumption.** On August 15, Catholics celebrate that the Blessed Virgin Mary, Jesus's mother, ascended into Heaven.
- **All Saints Day.** On November 1, Catholics attend Mass in honor of the holy men and women who have gone to Heaven.
- **Immaculate Conception of Mary.** On December 8, Catholics celebrate that Mary was conceived without original sin.
- **Christ the King.** On the last Sunday of the liturgical calendar, Catholics celebrate Jesus as Christ the King.

What colors are used during the liturgical calendar?

At Mass, the priest's vestments and church decor coordinate with the color of the season based on the liturgical calendar.

- **White represents light, innocence, purity, joy, triumph, and glory:** Christmas, Mary, Mother of God, Epiphany, Feast of Saint Joseph, Holy Thursday, Easter Vigil, Easter, Ascension, Corpus Christi, Trinity Sunday, Assumption, All Saints Day, Immaculate Conception, Christ the King
- **Purple represents penance and humility:** Advent, Ash Wednesday, Lent
- **Green represents life eternal and hope:** Ordinary Time
- **Red represents the Passion, blood, fire, God's Love, and martyrdom:** Pentecost, Good Friday, Palm Sunday

Sources:

www.usccb.org
www.catholic.org
<https://www.bing.com/images/search?q=Free+Clip+Art+Catholic+Liturgical+Calendar&FORM=IRIBQP>