

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

The entire Church Year is broken into Liturgical Seasons that help us to follow the life of Christ and experience these events in the here and now.

<u>Season/Sunday</u>	<u>Vestments & Altar Color</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
Advent - (4 Sundays)	Purple	Time of joyful preparation and expectation
Christmas Day	White	Birth of Jesus
Christmas Season Includes: Holy Family, Epiphany, Baptism of the Lord	White	The Christmas Season celebrates the early life of Jesus, from his birth to the beginning of his public ministry.
Ordinary Time "not seasonal." (Counting Time)	Green	Ordinary Time is that part of the Year that lies outside the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter.
Lent Includes: Ash Wednesday, 5 Sundays of Lent, Palm Sunday, & Holy Week	Purple	Lent is the time of preparation for Easter, the greatest feast of the Church. It is a period of purification and enlightenment. During Lent, we are asked to focus on changing our lives through prayer, penance, and love
The Easter Triduum Holy Thursday Good Friday Holy Saturday Easter Vigil	White Red Violet White	The Easter Triduum, marking the days of Jesus' Passion and Resurrection, is the most important time of the church year. It begins with the evening Mass of Holy Thursday, reaches its high point in the Easter Vigil, and closes on Easter Sunday evening.
Easter Sunday	White	Resurrection of the Lord
Easter Season Includes: Sundays of Easter, Ascension, and Pentecost	White	The fifty days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost are celebrated in joyful exultation as one feast day, or better, as one "great Sunday".
Pentecost	Red	Celebrates coming of the Holy Spirit and the beginning of the Church
Trinity Sunday	White	Feast of the Most Holy Trinity
Body & Blood of Christ	White	Celebrates the Body and Blood of Christ given to us.
Ordinary Time Between: Christmas & Lent Easter & Advent	Green	Specific weeks that do not celebrate a specific mystery of Christ. Rather they are devoted to the mystery of Christ in all its fullness. Counting Time-Not Seasonal
Our Lord Jesus Christ the King (Last Sunday of the Year)	White	Celebrates Christ's Kingship as the Eternal Priest and Universal King. A Kingdom of truth, of life, of holiness and grace, and of justice, love, and peace.

Color	Meaning
Purple (Violet)	Represents Expectation, Purification, or Penance. The color of purple in Advent helps us to remember that we are preparing for the coming of Christ. In Lent: the season of penance and renewal also uses the color of purple. Advent may have a Blue-Purple Color for hope.
White or (Gold)	Represents Joy and Victory (Triumph). White is used for the seasons of Christmas and Easter. It is also used for the Feasts of Our Lord, Feasts of Mary, the Angels, and for Saints who are not martyrs. Gold may also be used on solemn occasions.
Green	Represents a sign of Life and Growth. Green is seen everywhere in plants and trees symbolizes life and hope and is used during Ordinary Time.
Red	Represents Royalty, Fire, and Martyrdom. Red (the color of fire) recalls the Holy Spirit and is used on Pentecost and for the sacrament of Confirmation. Red (the color of blood) is used for the Passion of Jesus on Passion Sunday and Good Friday. It is also used for the feasts of the apostles, evangelists and martyrs.
Rose	Represents the joy of anticipation for Christmas and Easter. Rose <u>may be used</u> on the Third Sunday of Advent and on the Fourth Sunday of Lent.