

Advent

Christmas

Ordinary Time

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Lent

Triduum

Easter

Advent The season of Advent begins the liturgical year in late November or early December. Advent is a time of joyful preparation for the coming of Christ. We look forward to Christ's second coming at the end of time. We celebrate that Christ comes into our lives every day. We await Christmas, the celebration of the first coming of the Son of God.

Christmas The Christmas season begins on Christmas Day with the celebration of the birth of the Son of God. During this entire season we celebrate that God is with us always.

Lent The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. Lent is the special time when we remember that Jesus suffered, died, and rose to new life to restore our relationship with God. During Lent we work to grow closer to Jesus and one another through prayer, fasting, and penance. We pray for and support all who are preparing for the sacraments of initiation. We prepare for the Easter Triduum.

Triduum The Easter Triduum is the Church's greatest and most important celebration. The word *triduum* means "three days." During these three days, from Holy Thursday evening until Easter Sunday evening, we remember and celebrate Jesus' suffering, death, and Resurrection in a very special way.

Easter The season of Easter begins on Easter Sunday evening and continues until Pentecost Sunday. During this season we rejoice in Jesus' Resurrection and in the new life we have in Jesus Christ.

Ordinary Time The season of Ordinary Time is celebrated in two parts: the first part is between Christmas and Lent, and the second part is between Easter and Advent. During this time we celebrate the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and learn what it means to live as his disciples. On the last Sunday of Ordinary Time, also the last Sunday of the liturgical year, we celebrate the feast of Christ the King.