

Advent

Christmas

Ordinary Time

Lent

Triduum

Easter

Ordinary Time

### The Liturgical Year

By means of the yearly cycle the Church celebrates the whole mystery of Christ, from his incarnation until the day of Pentecost and the expectation of his coming again.

(*Norms Governing Liturgical Calendars*, 17)

## Overview

In this chapter the students will learn that throughout the liturgical year we remember and celebrate the life of Christ.

### For Adult Reading and Reflection

You may want to refer to paragraph 1168 of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

## Catechist Background

**H**ow do you remember and celebrate important events during the year?

By remembering and celebrating the life, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus Christ, the Church opens up for all of us “her Lord’s powers and merits” (CCC 1163). The celebration of each new liturgical year enables us to unite ourselves with Christ and grow in grace.

The signs and symbols of the Church year, from the Advent wreath to the Paschal candle, continue to remind us of all that Jesus did for our sakes. At the core of each liturgical action is our identification with the Son of God. Our wholehearted participation in the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, intensifies the covenant relationship that began in our Baptism. In and out of season, Christians remember and fulfill Jesus’ command, “Do this in memory of me” (Luke 22:19).

During the liturgical seasons, the Church desires to relive “the great events of salvation history in the

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‘today’ of her liturgy. But this also demands that catechesis help the faithful to open themselves to this spiritual understanding of the economy of salvation” (CCC 1095). Each new season draws us more deeply into the mysteries of Christ’s life.

The celebration of the liturgical year exerts “a special sacramental power and influence which strengthens Christian life” (*Sharing the Light of Faith*, 144). By living and celebrating the Church year, we keep Christ at the heart of all our days.

**H**ow will you enter more deeply into the Church year?

# Lesson Planning Guide

## Lesson Focus

## Presentation

## Materials

### 1 WE GATHER

page 54

**Introduce the Season**

- Read the *Chapter Story*.
- Introduce the liturgical year.
- Proclaim the words on the banner.

page 60

- Share responses to the questions.

### 2 WE BELIEVE

pages 60–62

Throughout the liturgical year we remember and celebrate the life of Christ.

- Present the text and the liturgical year calendar.
- Play a liturgical year game.
- Present the calendar rhyme and the history of our current (Gregorian) calendar.

- a sign for each season

### 3 WE RESPOND

page 62



List signs of each liturgical season and make plans to prepare your prayer space for each one.

Text page 63

page 63–64

**We Respond in Prayer**

- Reflect on God's presence with us throughout the year and throughout our lives.

- prayer space items: bulletin board display of stars and planets; icon of Christ

Text page 64

Guide pages 63–64, 64A

**Project Disciple**

- Complete the **Project Disciple** activities.
- Complete Reproducible Master 6 activity. See Guide pages 64A and 59C.
- Discuss/send home **Sharing Faith with My Family**, guide page 64B.

- copies of Reproducible Master 6, guide page 64A.
- copies of **Sharing Faith with My Family**, guide page 64B.

For additional ideas, activities, and opportunities: Visit Sadlier's

[www.WEBELIEVEweb.com](http://www.WEBELIEVEweb.com)