

Advent

Christmas

Ordinary Time

Lent

Three Days

Easter

Ordinary Time

The Church 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 children will learn that the Church year celebrates Jesus.

For Adult Reading and Reflection

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

Catechist Background

In what ways does your spirit respond to the annual passing of the seasons?

Throughout the course of each year, the Church celebrates the saving work of Jesus Christ in a cycle of feasts and seasons. “Within the cycle of a year, moreover, she unfolds the whole mystery of Christ, not only from His incarnation and birth until His ascension, but also as reflected in the day of Pentecost, and the expectation of a blessed, hoped-for return of the Lord” (*Documents of Vatican II*, Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, 102).

During the Advent and Christmas seasons, the Church recalls and celebrates the mystery of the Incarnation, from the Annunciation to Epiphany. These feasts commemorate the beginning of our salvation story. They also communicate to the faith community the “first fruits of the Paschal mystery” (CCC 1171).

Go to www.webelieveweb.com, Catechist/Teacher, We Believe Correlations for this chapter’s correlation to the Six Tasks of Catechesis.

During the seasons of Lent, the Triduum, and Easter, the Church recalls and celebrates the Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of the Lord. The People of God are thus enriched by Christ’s powers and merits, which are once again made present to them.

Within the context of the Church year, the Church commemorates the saving actions of our God, gives thanks, perpetuates the remembrance of those actions, and teaches the next generation to enter into them.

How will you open yourself more fully to the riches of the Church year?

Lesson Planning Guide

Lesson Steps

Presentation

Materials

1 WE GATHER

page 54
Introduce the Season

- Read the *Chapter Story*.
- Introduce the Church year.
- Proclaim the words on the banner.
- Proclaim the Scripture story.

- Bible

page 60

- Recall a celebration memory.

2 WE BELIEVE


pages 60–61
The Church year celebrates Jesus.

- Read and discuss the seasons of the Church's year.
- Make Church year booklets.
- Present the time line of the Church's year.

- construction paper, writing paper, markers, and scissors
- paper punch
- heavy yarn or ribbons


3 WE RESPOND


page 62

-  Complete the activity.
- Brainstorm ways of celebrating that Jesus is with us.

- yardstick

Text page 63
Guide page 63–64
We Respond in Prayer

- Listen to Scripture.
-  Sing the song.

- prayer space items: wreaths of flowers, straw, or branches; framed picture of Jesus; a white candle; a bright table covering.
-  "Jesus Is with Us," Owen Alstott, #5, Grade 3 CD
- rhythm instruments

Text page 64
Guide pages 63–64, 64A
Project Disciple

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

- pencils, colored pencils or crayons
- 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.WEBELIEV.web.com