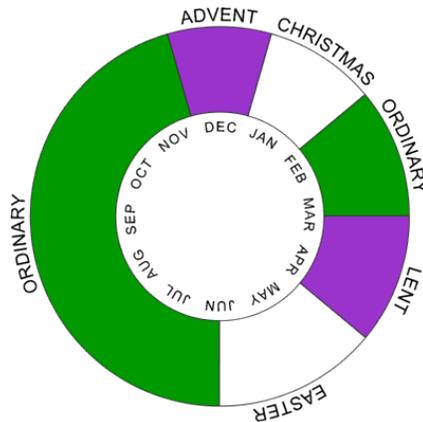




## From Deacon Mark Miller's Desk

**This Sunday is two different things.** One, it marks the end of the liturgical year. Two, it is a "solemnity" – a feast day that is the highest rank celebrating a mystery of faith. Let's review both of these "things".

**The liturgical year** is composed of six seasons: Advent, Christmas, Lent, Triduum, Easter, and ordinary time. This Sunday is the end of the liturgical year. The new liturgical year begins on the first Sunday of Advent which always falls at the end of a calendar year. The 2022 liturgical year will begin 28 Nov 2021. The liturgical year doesn't measure the passing of time [like our traditional yearly calendar]; it celebrates and recalls the events in the life of Christ. There are different calendars for Sunday and daily Masses. Each Sunday our celebration is accompanied by readings from the Old Testament, New Testament, and the Gospels.



**The Sunday Liturgical cycles** are Cycle "A", Cycle "B", and Cycle "C". Each cycle features one of the synoptic gospels.

Year A – Gospel of Matthew

Year B -- Gospel of Mark

Year C – Gospel of Luke

**The Gospel of John** is used during Easter as well as Advent, Christmas, Lent, and on some Sundays in ordinary time. The 6th chapter of John is used in year "B".

**All the readings** for each Sunday are contained in the Lectionary. The most recent edition was published in 2002 and uses readings from the New American Bible – Revised Edition [NABRE]; the only source for liturgical scripture readings in the United States.

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**This Sunday is classified** as a “Solemnity” – the most important kind of feast. If you think of feasts of having “ranks”, a solemnity is the commanding general. Following it are Feasts, Memorials, and optional Memorials. A solemnity celebrates a mystery of faith [the Trinity], an event in Jesus’ life, Mary, or another important saint. The most important solemnity in the Church year is the Triduum [Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday]. The General Roman Calendar contains 17 solemnities celebrated by the entire Latin church. The calendar in use today has its roots in the Council of Trent [1545 –1563] and was simplified to its present form after Vatican II.

**Ritual Masses come** next. They include Christian Initiation [baptism, confirmation, and first communion], Holy Orders, Marriage, and Blessing of a Church among others.

**There are four sub-categories** of Masses for Various Occasions. They are:

- For the Holy Church – the pope, pastoral meetings, Christian Unity
- For Public Needs – civic leaders, peace and justice
- Public Circumstances – new year, harvest, refugees, natural disasters
- Various Needs – for the family, promotion of charity

**The next category** is Votive Masses. Among these masses are Holy Trinity, Holy Name of Jesus, Precious Blood, Sacred Heart, St. Joseph, and several others.

**Finally**, there are the Masses for the Dead – funeral liturgies, memorial masses, special masses for deceased children.