

Celebrating the Liturgical Year



To celebrate the events in Christ's life, the mysteries of our faith, and our special love of our Blessed Mother, the Church has organized a three-year cycle of Scripture readings to be proclaimed at Sunday Mass. These cycles are referred to as Year A (focusing on the Gospel according to Matthew), Year B (focusing on the Gospel according to Mark and chapter 6 of the Gospel according to John), and Year C (focusing on the Gospel according to Luke). During the Easter season in all three years, we focus primarily on the Gospel according to John.

The Church year begins with the season of Advent.

We are currently in Year A. Liturgical Year B (the 2023–2024 Liturgical Year) will begin on the First Sunday of Advent (November 27, 2022).

The Christmas season follows Advent.

During this Liturgical Year, the Nativity of the Lord

(12/25/2023) and the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God (1/1/2024) occur on Sundays. The Church will also celebrate the Visit of the Magi (the Epiphany of the Lord, 1/7/2024).



Then follows Ordinary Time and Lent.

Several weeks of Ordinary Time follow the Christmas season. Soon after, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (2/14/2024). The Triduum begins at sunset on Holy Thursday with the celebration of the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper (3/28/2024) and concludes with vespers on Easter Sunday (3/31/2024).

The Easter Season follows Lent.

During the Easter season, the Gospels tell us of Jesus' post-Resurrection appearances; his teaching about his love as being that of a Good Shepherd; his naming of

himself as the way, the truth, and the life; his promise not to leave us orphans; his prayer to the Father for us; and his Ascension. On Pentecost (5/19/2024), the Gospel tells us of the disciples receiving the Holy Spirit in the Upper Room.

The Season of Ordinary Time follows the Easter Season.

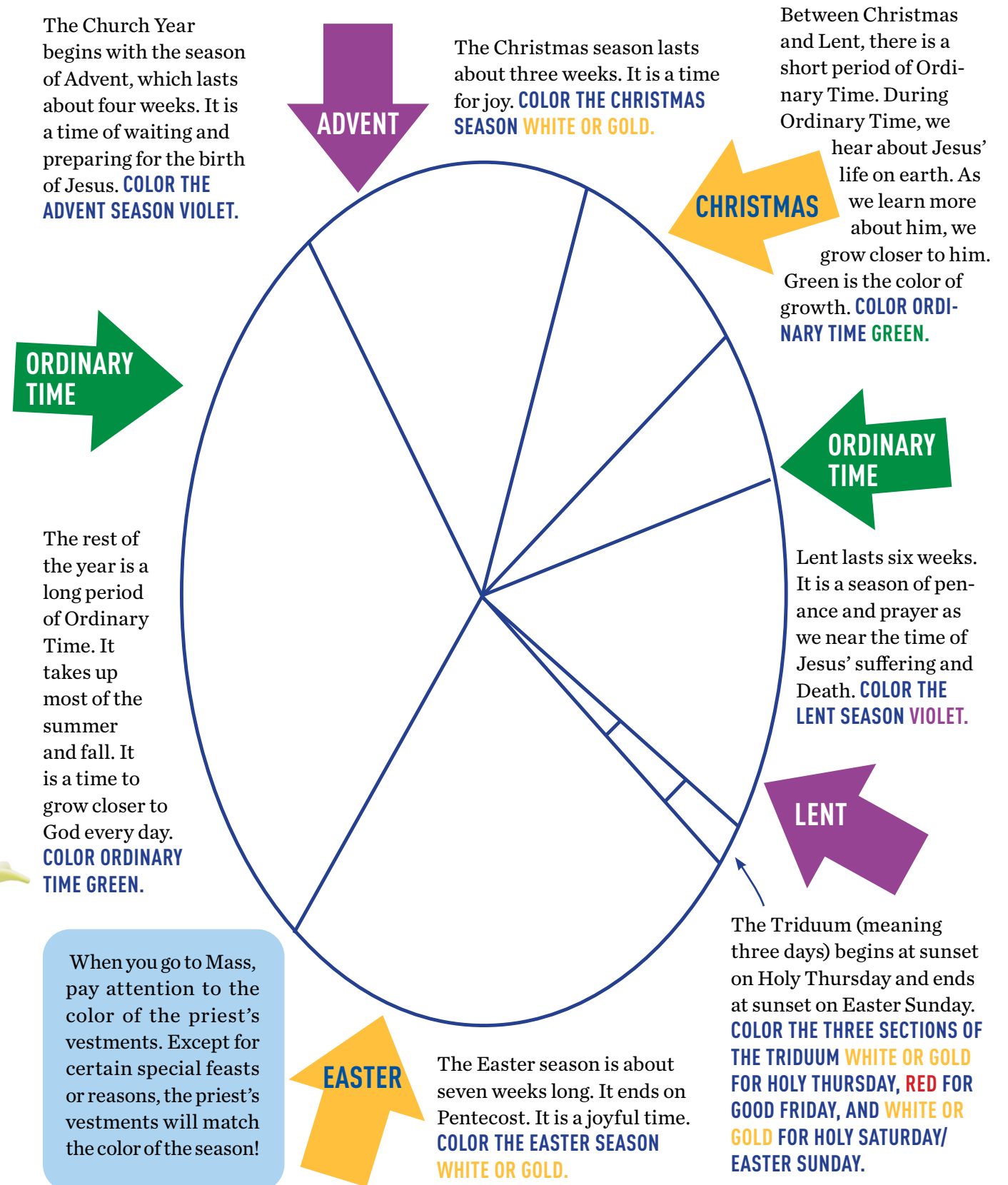
We will celebrate Ordinary Time for the remainder of the Liturgical Year. Through the weeks and months, the Gospels will proclaim Jesus' identity in different ways and tell of his miracles, parables, and teachings about the Kingdom of Heaven.



PHOTOS: (L-R, T-B) DEREK HATFIELD, PIXELDARKROOM, LARS HALLSTROM, LAURA_VN (ALL FROM SHUTTERSTOCK)

THE CHURCH YEAR has a special calendar. It doesn't go by months. It goes by seasons. Read about each season. Then color its section on the chart.

An Interactive Activity for Families



AUGUST 2023		SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30 17th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME <i>Catechesis is ‘an education of children, young people, and adults in the faith of the Church through the teaching of Christian doctrine in an organic and systematic way to make them disciples of Jesus Christ.’</i> —CCC, Glossary		31 Saint Ignatius of Loyola Mt 13:44-52	1 St. Alphonsus Ligouri	2 St. Eusebius of Vercelli, St. Peter Julian Eymard	3	4 St. John Vianney	5 The Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major	
6 THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD <i>Why did Jesus give us his Body in something that has the appearance of bread?</i> Mt 17:1-9		7 St. Sixtus II, Pope, and Companions, Martyrs; Saint Cajetan	8 St. Dominic	9 St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, Martyr	10 St. Lawrence, Martyr	11 St. Clare	12 St. Jane Frances de Chantal	
13 19th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Mt 14:22-33		14 St. Maximilian Kolbe, Martyr	15 THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY Lk 1:39-56	16 Saint Stephen of Hungary	17	18	19 St. John Eudes	
20 20th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME <i>How did Jesus feel when he asked the Apostles if they would leave too? What helped them believe that Jesus was God?</i> Mt 15:21-28		21 St. Pius X, Pope	22 The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary	23 St. Rose of Lima	24 St. Bartholomew, Apostle	25 St. Louis; St. Joseph Calasanz	26	
27 21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME <i>How do you honor Jesus with your lips and your heart?</i> Mt 16:13-20		28 St. Augustine, Doctor of the Church	29 The Passion of St. John the Baptist	30	31	1 <i>The Catechism was not written to please you. It will not make life easy for you, because it demands of you a new life.</i> —Pope Benedict XVI, introduction to <i>YOUCAT</i>		