# **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.

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.

**ADVENT** 

**An Interactive Activity for Families** 

The Church Year begins with the season of Advent, which lasts about four weeks. It is a time of waiting and preparing for the birth of Jesus. COLOR THE ADVENT SEASON VIOLET.

The Christmas season lasts about three weeks. It is a time for joy. **COLOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON WHITE OR GOLD.** 

and Lent, there is a short period of Ordinary Time. During

**CHRISTMAS** 

Ordinary Time, we hear about Jesus' life on earth. As we learn more about him, we

grow closer to him. Green is the color of growth. COLOR ORDI-**NARY TIME GREEN.** 

**Between Christmas** 

**ORDINARY** TIME

> The rest of the year is a long period of Ordinary Time. It takes up most of the summer and fall. It is a time to grow closer to God every day. **COLOR ORDINARY** TIME GREEN.

> > When you go to Mass, pay attention to the color of the priest's vestments. Except for certain special feasts or reasons, the priest's vestments will match the color of the season!

**EASTER** 

The Easter season is about seven weeks long. It ends on Pentecost. It is a joyful time. **COLOR THE EASTER SEASON** WHITE OR GOLD.

ORDINARY TIME

Lent lasts six weeks. It is a season of penance and prayer as we near the time of Jesus' suffering and Death. COLOR THE LENT SEASON VIOLET

The Triduum (meaning three days) begins at sunset on Holy Thursday and ends at sunset on Easter Sunday. **COLOR THE THREE SECTIONS OF** THE TRIDUUM WHITE OR GOLD FOR HOLY THURSDAY, RED FOR **GOOD FRIDAY, AND WHITE OR GOLD FOR HOLY SATURDAY/** EASTER SUNDAY.

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

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