

Lesson Plan, Grade 8 - Chapter 18

Catechist Background

Doctrinal Content

- The Church celebrates the Paschal Mystery through a yearly cycle of seasons and feasts, which connect us more closely to Jesus. (CCC, 1163-1165)
- Because we are different each year, we enter into the Church's seasons and feasts with different needs, hopes, and relationships with God and others. The liturgical year helps us pattern our lives on Jesus' life. (CCC, 1168)
- The Eucharist is at the heart of what it means to be Catholic. Participation in Sunday Mass and our own regular personal prayer help us live the life of Christ. (CCC, 1194, 1404)
- In the liturgy, the three Divine Persons of the Holy Trinity are present and active in our worship. We are transformed by the liturgy to become more like Christ. (CCC, 1110-1112)

Catechist Background

"The works of God are all of them good; he supplies for every need in its own time. No cause then to say: "What is the purpose of this?" Everything is chosen to satisfy a need. ... [and] each shows its worth at the proper time."—The Wisdom of Ben Sira (Sirach) 39:16, 21, 34

Reflect How does the liturgical year help you to remember the Paschal Mystery?

Life, the old saying goes, is what happens to you while you are making other plans. We like to think that we control our lives, and in a certain sense we do, because the free choices we make often have the greatest influence on our destinies. But we also know that life is about responding to a never-ending series of surprises, ranging from the pleasant and joyful to the frustrating and tragic. How we deal with these surprises is the consequence of the way in which we prepare ourselves in the in-between time, the ordinary time, by growing in deeper relationship with Christ.

Because life is unpredictable, the stability and rhythm of our liturgical year are incredible blessings for us. The liturgical year is an anchor of wisdom in the storm of inconsistency and, often, chaos that we each have to navigate our way through in this world. By telling—and re-telling—the sacred stories of our faith tradition, and by engaging in timeless rituals that both define and transcend our day-to-day lives, we find a pattern for just and virtuous living that inspires and strengthens us as Christians.

Reflect What is your favorite celebration of the Church year, and why does it mean so much to you?

Catechist's Prayer

God, I thank you for the gift of the seasons. You walked with us and shared our lives. You blessed us with an awareness of the sacred in all of life and creation. Blessed be your holy name, now and forever. Amen.

Sharing the Message

How Eighth-Graders Understand Chapter Topics

Eighth-graders are beginning to understand and appreciate tradition and ritual. They have lived long enough to remember things that have been done over and over, both in their own family celebrations and in the Church.

Teaching Tip

Develop some group rituals, some things you do as a group on a regular basis. These could include particular prayers or ways of discussing topics, recognition of birthdays or baptismal anniversaries, etc.

Sharing the Message with Eighth-Graders

Adolescents are changing at a rapid and sometimes frightening pace, physically, emotionally, and intellectually. They desire to know that their futures will be stable.

- Eighth-graders want to use their gifts and abilities well, but they are often still trying to figure out what these things are. The affirmation of others is important in helping them discern what they have to offer.
- Help the youth connect with the seasons and feasts of the liturgical year; remind them that yearly commemorations give us an opportunity to reflect on the growth and change that has taken place during the year and recognize the blessings in our daily lives.

Chapter Connections

Tasks of Catechesis

Helping children grow in a faith that is “known, celebrated, lived, and expressed in prayer” (NDC, 20). This chapter focuses on the following tasks of catechesis:

- Promoting Knowledge of the Faith
- Liturgical Education

NCEA IFG: ACRE Edition

Knowledge of the Faith

- Objective: To know and understand basic Catholic teaching about the Incarnate Word Jesus Christ as the way, truth, and life

Liturgical Life

- Objectives: To know the Paschal Mystery of Jesus: in the Church’s liturgical life—feasts, seasons, symbols, and practices—and in the Sacraments as signs and instruments of grace

Catholic Faith Literacy

Advent, consecration, Easter, Holy Days of Obligation, Lent, liturgical year

Catholic Social Teaching

To integrate Catholic Social Teaching into your lesson, choose one of the following features: Solidarity of the Human Family, pages 344–345; or Care for God’s Creation, pages 346–347.

- Start the Live step of the process by talking about Saint Maria del Transito de Jesus Sacramentado on page 284. Then move directly to the Catholic Social Teaching feature.
- Or, to expand the lesson, complete page 284, then move to the Catholic Social Teaching feature.
- Return to Chapter 18 for the prayer on page 285.

Music Option

► Use one or more of the following songs to enhance catechetical learning or for prayer.

- "Christ, Be Our Light," Live, Page 285
- "Alive in One Spirit," Live, Page 285
- "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name," Live, Page 285

Catechist Instruction, Grade 8 – Chapter 18

Invite Page 275

Objective

- Reflect on God's personal invitation through Scripture

♥ Let Us Pray

Invite the young people to gather in the prayer space and make the Sign of the Cross. Pray the leader prayer. Choose a student to read aloud the Psalm verses.

Prompt the group's response. Have the youth move from the prayer space back to their seats.

Say: As we grow and learn and experience God through our Church year after year, we come to an ever deeper awareness of who he is and who we are in his eyes.

† Scripture

Guide the youth through the process of Scripture reflection.

Invite the young people to be still, close their eyes, and focus on their breathing.

Encourage them to open their minds and hearts to what God is saying to them.

- Proclaim the Scripture and have the youth sit in silence.
- *Ask:* What did you hear God say to you today?
- Allow volunteers to share.

► You may play instrumental music to begin the reflection.

Remember, this is a spiritual discipline that takes practice. The young people will grow in their capacity to sit in silence. Throughout the year, build to four minutes.

Have you ever thought...

Say: The different seasons of the liturgical year help us pattern our lives on the life of Christ.

- Invite the young people to respond to the questions.

Discover (1) Pages 278-279

Objectives

- Explore how the Church celebrates the Paschal Mystery through a yearly cycle of seasons and feasts
- Identify the seasons of the liturgical year

Teaching Activity: Liturgical Calendar Wheel

Participants will create a liturgical calendar to help them understand how the liturgical year journeys through the Incarnation, birth, life, Death, Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus and the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost.

Before the Lesson

Materials Needed

✚ Go to **aliveinchrist.osv.com** and download Liturgical Calendar Wheel Template, Catholic Faith Words

construction paper or heavy cardstock, scissors, markers, paper fastener (1 per participant), tape

Preparation

- Print out one Liturgical Calendar Wheel Template per participant on construction paper or heavy cardstock.
- Create and decorate a Liturgical Calendar Wheel to use as an example during the activity.

Activity Directions

Begin the activity by distributing the Liturgical Calendar Templates to the participants.

Have them cut out each of the circles in the template.

Say: It may seem almost silly to talk about the liturgical year. It's like talking about celebrating your birthday. You learn it by doing it. During your entire life, you've been celebrating the feasts and the seasons of our liturgical year.

Who knows what season begins the Church year?

Allow a moment for the youth to answer.

Say: The Church year begins in Advent, usually in late November or early December, moves to the Christmas season, then to the first, shorter part of Ordinary Time, on to Lent, the Triduum, and the Easter Season, then to the longer part of Ordinary Time that lasts many weeks. Advent, Lent, Christmas, and Easter are feasts and seasons you've learned about through your participation. While it may be a little harder to talk about Ordinary Time, you can think of the liturgical year as the Church calendar that journeys every single year through the whole life of Jesus—from his Incarnation and Nativity to his Death, Resurrection, and Ascension. We remember his continued presence through the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. And we long for the time when he will come again in glory.

Point to the definition of *liturgical year* and ask a volunteer to read it aloud to the group.

Say: Did you know that while we journey yearly through the Paschal Mystery—Christ’s work of redemption through his Passion, Death, Resurrection and Ascension—every Sunday? And we do this knowing and celebrating that he will come again. We hear about Jesus’ life in the Liturgy of the Word and every time we participate in the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Through the Holy Spirit, Christ is offering himself as a sacrifice for our redemption. We experience new life every time we receive his Body and Blood in Holy Communion. It’s like a circle within a circle.

Explain to the participants that the large circle represents the whole liturgical year. Have them draw three lines across the center of the wheel so that the circle is slit into six pie slices. Ask them to color each section of the wheel with a different color that represents the colors of the different Church seasons.

Advent: Purple

Christmas: White or Gold

Ordinary Time: Green Lent: Purple

Easter Triduum: White or Gold and Red (Good Friday)

Easter: White or Gold

Ask them to take the next largest circle and write the word Mass on it. Have them draw a line through the middle of that circle and on the left side draw a cross on the outer edge to represent Christ’s Death. Have them then draw a symbol of Christ’s Resurrection on the right side of the circle. Some examples are Christ’s tomb, an Easter lily, or an egg.

Say: Let’s think about that for a minute. Every day the Church celebrates the circle within the circle. And because that happens daily, all over the world in different time zones, there are circles within the big circle all day and all night long. The Church is celebrating the Paschal Mystery twenty-four hours a day.

Direct the participants to take the smallest circle and think about a dying and rising they experience every day—the end of a day and the beginning of a new one. Have them draw a line down the middle circle. Ask them to write NIGHT (DYINGS) on the outer edge of one side and DAY (RISINGS) on the outer edge of the other side.

Say: Now, take the smallest circle and think of the other dyings you experience—the dying to a school year, the dying to the kids’ table at Thanksgiving, the dying to your parents doing everything for you, the dying to your adolescent belief that you would always be the center of attention—to name a few. Write the dyings on the side that is labeled NIGHT and write the good things that can come from those deaths on the side

that is labeled DAY. Demonstrate for the youth how to connect the circles together by pushing the paper fastener through the center of the largest circle where they have placed the dot. Attach the remaining two circles according to size and then spread the fastener to secure them.

Say: The liturgical year helps you pattern your life on Jesus' life. It helps you to join your life to his a little more deeply each year. Isn't it wonderful to belong to Christ's Body, the Church that helps us to join our experiences to the experiences of Christ and the Church each year, each Sunday, each day? Now you really have a circle of life—the life of Christ.

Extend the Lesson

Use **Activity Master 18: Extraordinary Ordinary Time!** to extend the lesson; it is not included in the timed estimate for this section of the Lesson Plan.

Discover (2) Pages 280-281

Objective

- Recognize that in the liturgy, the three Divine Persons of the Holy Trinity are present and active in our worship

Point out the opening question and tell the young people this is what they will be learning about.

A Time for Everything

Direct the youth to silently read this section.

- *Ask:* Does this sound like you? Can you relate?
- Invite those who wish to do so to share their thoughts.

Past, Present, Future

Explain that the community of the Church and her customs keep us connected—to ourselves and to each other.

† Go to the Source

Have the youth find Ecclesiastes 3:1– 8 in their Bibles.

- Select eight volunteers and assign each of them one of the verses to read aloud.
- Discuss the questions as a group.

† Scripture Background

Ecclesiastes 3:1–8

The Book of Ecclesiastes is one of the Wisdom Books in the Old Testament. Its author was a teacher named Qoheleth who wrote this book in the third or fourth century B.C.

Qoheleth was an observer of people and events, who puzzled over seeming contradictions and asked questions about the meaning of life without offering many answers. Instead, he called his readers to stretch their understanding of faith. This passage is perhaps the most famous quote from Ecclesiastes. It offers simple wisdom: There is a season and a time for doing everything.

The Trinity in the Liturgy

Organize the young people into three groups.

- Assign each group one of the three sections on page 280 and 281: Father, Son, or Holy Spirit.
- Ask them to read and discuss their section.
- Have each group present to the rest of the group the material from their section.
- Be sure that the second group covers the meaning of *consecration*.
- If need be, for clarification, pause and read aloud the definition from page 280.
- Allow time for questions and comments after each presentation.

Activity

Read aloud the instructions for the activity.

- Have the youth work independently to write a phrase from the Eucharistic Prayer that the priest says during the consecration.

Quick Review

The Holy Trinity is present and active in our worship, making our liturgy possible, making present the mysteries of faith we celebrate throughout the liturgical year.

Extend the Lesson

Use **Activity Master 17: What About It?** to extend the lesson; it is not included in the timed estimate for this section of the Lesson Plan.

Discover (3) Pages 282-283

Objectives

- Explore how we are transformed by the liturgy to become more like Christ
- Discuss how daily prayer and the Liturgy of the Hours open our minds and hearts to God

Ask the young people the opening question and list their responses on the board or on chart paper.

To Live the Life of Christ

Invite four volunteers to read aloud this section. Have them pause between paragraphs to allow for questions or comments from the rest of the group.

An Invitation to Regular Prayer

Summarize the first paragraph for the group, making sure to emphasize the things that help us to grow spiritually and be strengthened to live as Christ did.

Review with the group the information on Holy Days of Obligation and the Liturgy of the Hours.

- Discuss the need for daily or weekly prayer routines.

Work with Words

Have the youth review the definitions of the Catholic Faith Words on page 282.

- If time permits, have them create vocabulary flash cards and quiz a partner on the definitions.

In Summary

Have volunteers read aloud the Catholics Believe information for this chapter.

- Ask the young people to share their thoughts on how participation in Sunday Mass and our own regular personal prayer help us live the life of Christ.

Live Pages 284-285

Objectives

- Review ways to grow more deeply in faith
- Explore the faith life of Saint Maria del Transito de Jesus Sacramentado
- Offer the Prayer of Blessing

Our Catholic Life

Review the Our Catholic Life information with the youth.

- Impress upon them the importance of making prayer a part of their daily lives.
- Have the student's share their responses to the question at the end of this section with a partner.

People of Faith

Explain to the young people that Saint Maria started the Congregation of the Franciscan Tertiary Missionaries of Argentina to help the poor and orphans.

- Read aloud the People of Faith paragraph.
- Review with the group the content of the People of Faith Background box.
- Pray with the youth a decade of the Rosary.

Here are some additional details about Saint Maria del Transito de Jesus Sacramentado to assist you in presenting this section:

- Maria del Transito Eugenia de los Dolores Cabanillas was the third of eleven children. Her family was wealthy but her father also had a deep Christian faith.
- Maria was taught at home as a child. When she was older, she was for her younger brother as he prepared for the priesthood.

Activity

Read aloud the activity instructions and questions.

- Have the young people work independently.
- Encourage them to share their answers with a partner.

Prayer of Blessing

♥ Select two readers. Divide the rest of the group into two sides and give them time to read over their parts. You will be the leader.








- Gather the youth around the prayer table with half on each side, and the readers at the front.
- Follow the order of prayer on the student page.

► Conclude by singing with the young people or playing the song "Christ, Be Our Light," downloaded from **aliveinchrist.osv.com**. Alternate Music Options: "Alive in One Spirit" or "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name"

Chapter Review

If you are using eAssessments, remind the young people that they will need to be completed by the due date. Feedback is important at this age. For the tool to be used effectively provide feedback to the young people about their work.

Chapter 18 Lesson Plan

Objectives	Process	Materials
Invite, 15 minutes		
The Liturgical Year Page 275	 Psalm 105:3–4 Pray the opening prayer.  The Wisdom of Ben Sira (Sirach) 39:16, 21, 33–35 Guide the youth through the process of Scripture reflection. • Discuss Have You Ever Thought questions.	
Discover, 45 minutes		
The Church Year Pages 278–279 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore how the Church celebrates the Paschal Mystery through a yearly cycle of seasons and feasts • Identify the seasons of the liturgical year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching Activity Participants will create a liturgical calendar to help them understand how the liturgical year journeys through the Incarnation, birth, life, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus and the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. 	 Liturgical Calendar Template, Catholic Faith Words <input type="checkbox"/> construction paper or heavy cardstock, scissors, markers, paper fastener (1 per participant), tape
A Time for Everything Pages 280–281 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize that in the liturgy, the three Divine Persons of the Holy Trinity are present and active in our worship 	 Read and reflect on Ecclesiastes 3:1–8 . • Discuss how relationships change over time. • Activity Write a phrase from the consecration portion of the Eucharistic Prayer.	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens <input type="checkbox"/> Bibles
The Live the Life of Christ Pages 282–283 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore how we are transformed by the liturgy to become more like Christ • Discuss how daily prayer and the Liturgy of the Hours open our minds and hearts to God 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk about why participation in the Eucharist and regular prayer are important. • Activity Master Extraordinary Ordinary Time! 	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens <input type="checkbox"/> board or chart paper  Activity Master 18
Live, 15 minutes		
Our Catholic Life Page 284	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the questions in the Catholic Life section. • People of Faith Learn about Saint Maria de Transito de Jesus Sacramentado. • Activity Reflect on the joys and losses experienced in life. 	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens
Prayer of Blessing Page 285	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select two readers and designate Sides 1 and 2. • Follow the order of prayer. 	 “Christ, Be Our Light”
CATHOLIC FAITH WORDS liturgical year, consecration, Saints, Holy Days of Obligation, Liturgy of the Hours		ASSESSMENT Chapter Review, Page 288  aliveinchrist.osv.com Customize and Download Assessments, Interactive Student Reviews, eAssessments

Name _____

Date _____

Extraordinary Ordinary Time!

Remember “ordinal numbers” from math class? They’re the numbers we use to count. The word *ordinary* comes from the same root as “ordinal”—the Latin word *ordinus*, which means “number.”

Do some research on Ordinary Time using the questions below. You can find the answers within your parish. Check last Sunday’s bulletin. Find a Catholic calendar (you might have one at home). If your parish uses a missal or a printed worship aid, find one from last Sunday.

Today’s Date _____ Last Sunday’s Date _____

We are currently in this season: (circle one)

Advent

Christmas

Ordinary Time

Lent

Easter

What Sunday of the Church year is coming up next Sunday?

On what date will the First Sunday of next Advent fall?

On what date will Ordinary Time begin (the next time it comes around)?

What cycle of readings is being read on Sundays right now: A, B, or C?

What was last Sunday’s Gospel reading?

What will the Responsorial Psalm be next Sunday?

What color vestments will the priest wear this coming Sunday?

What Holy Day of Obligation is coming up next?

Name _____

Date _____

Circle the letter of the choice that best completes each sentence.

1. We remember events in Jesus' life through a cycle of seasons and feasts called _____.

a. Advent	c. Eucharist
b. Lent	d. the liturgical year
2. On Sundays we celebrate what Christ has done for us through _____.

a. his birth	c. his Crucifixion
b. his Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension	d. the liturgical year
3. _____ is at the very center of the liturgical year and all of the Church's life.

a. Baptism	c. Mary
b. The Eucharist	d. Easter
4. _____ is the Church's public prayer to mark each day as holy.

a. The Liturgy of the Hours	c. The Jesus Prayer
b. The Rosary	d. The Lord's Prayer

Indicate whether the following statements are true or false. Then rewrite false statements to make them true.

5. The liturgical year begins on New Year's Day in January. **True/False**

6. The Church celebrates those special times of the liturgical year no matter what else is going on in our lives or in the world. **True/False**

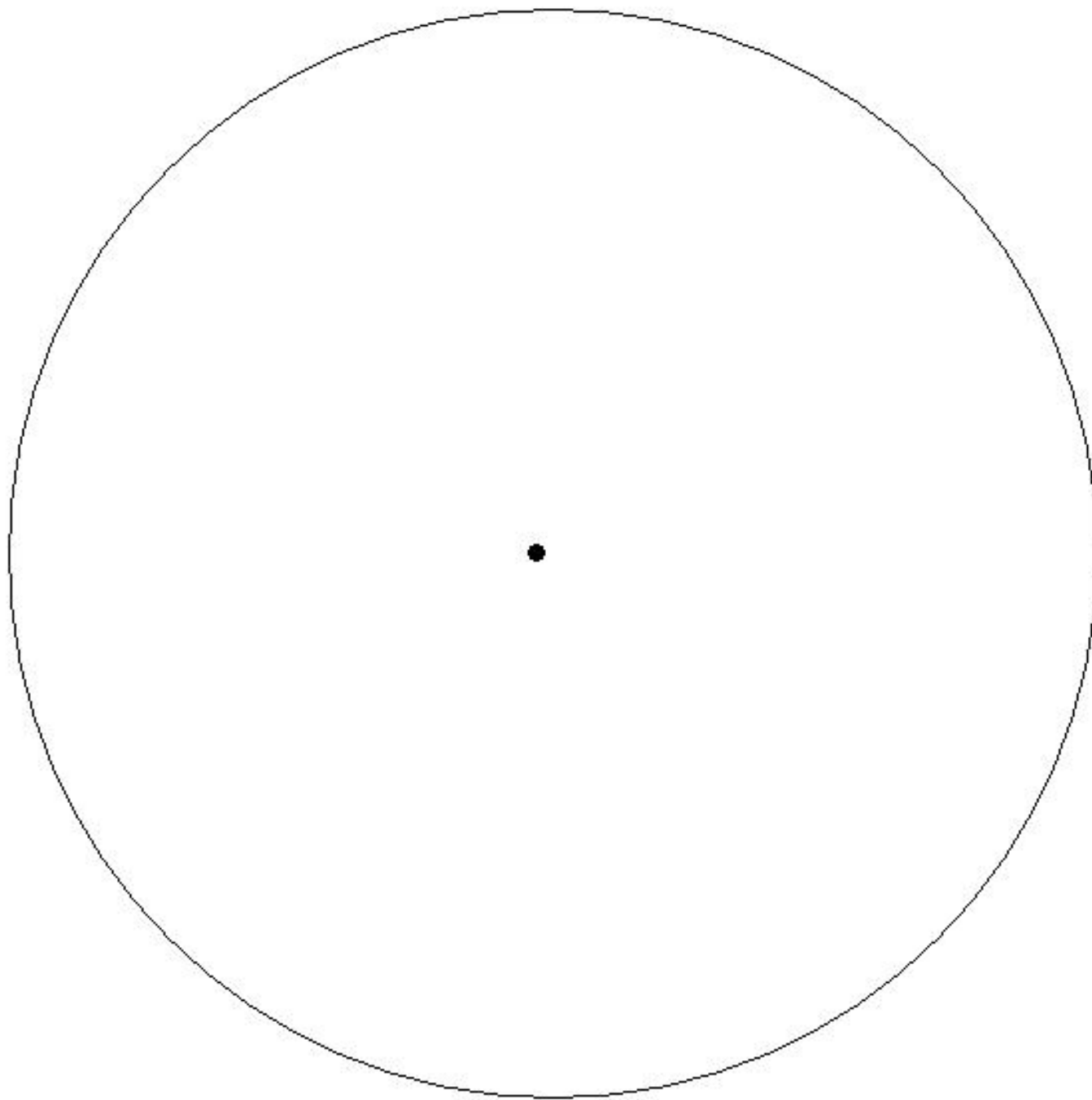
7. The Church's liturgy consists of only human actions. **True/False**

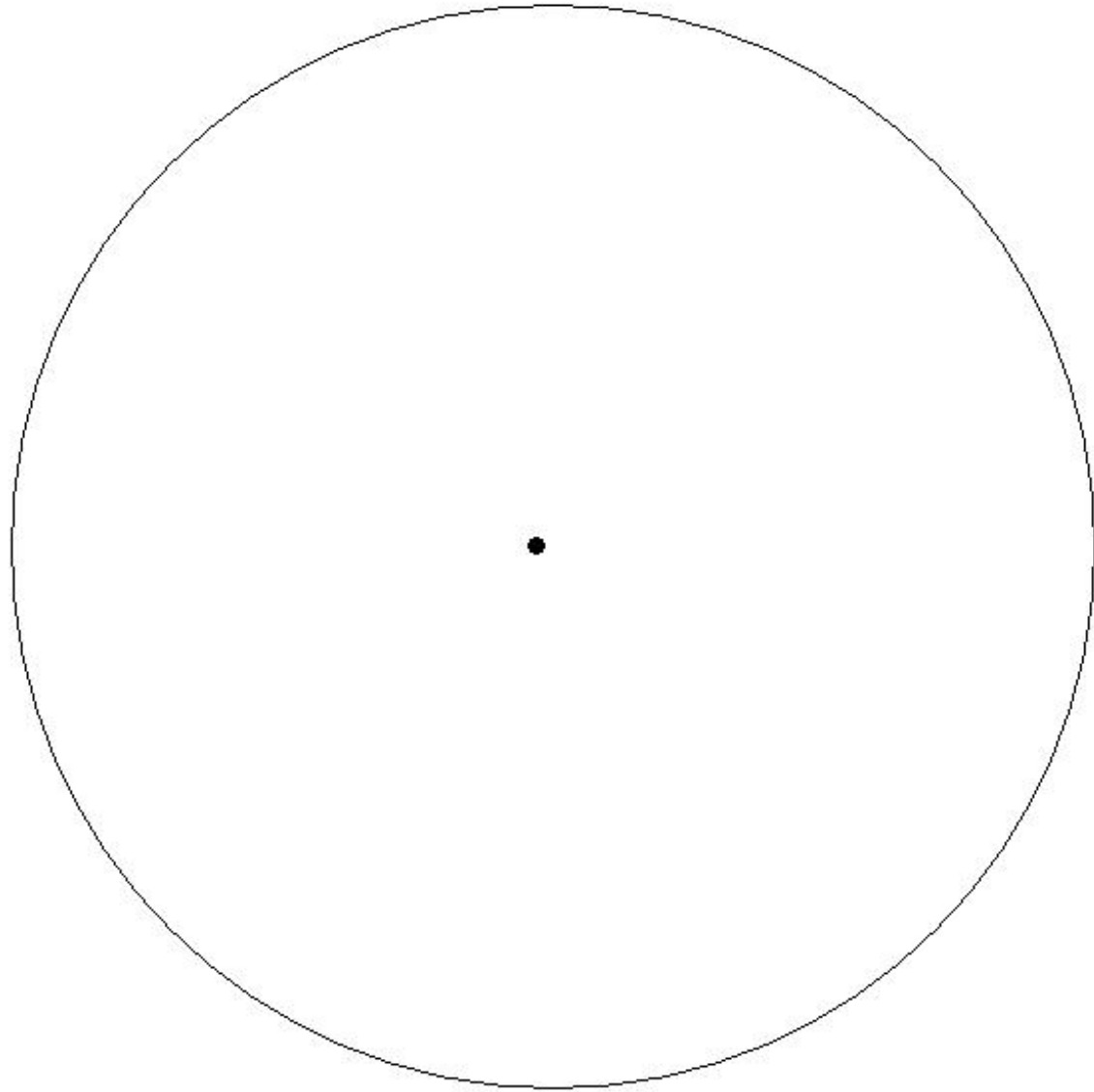
8. We can grow spiritually healthy by following a program of regular daily prayer. **True/False**

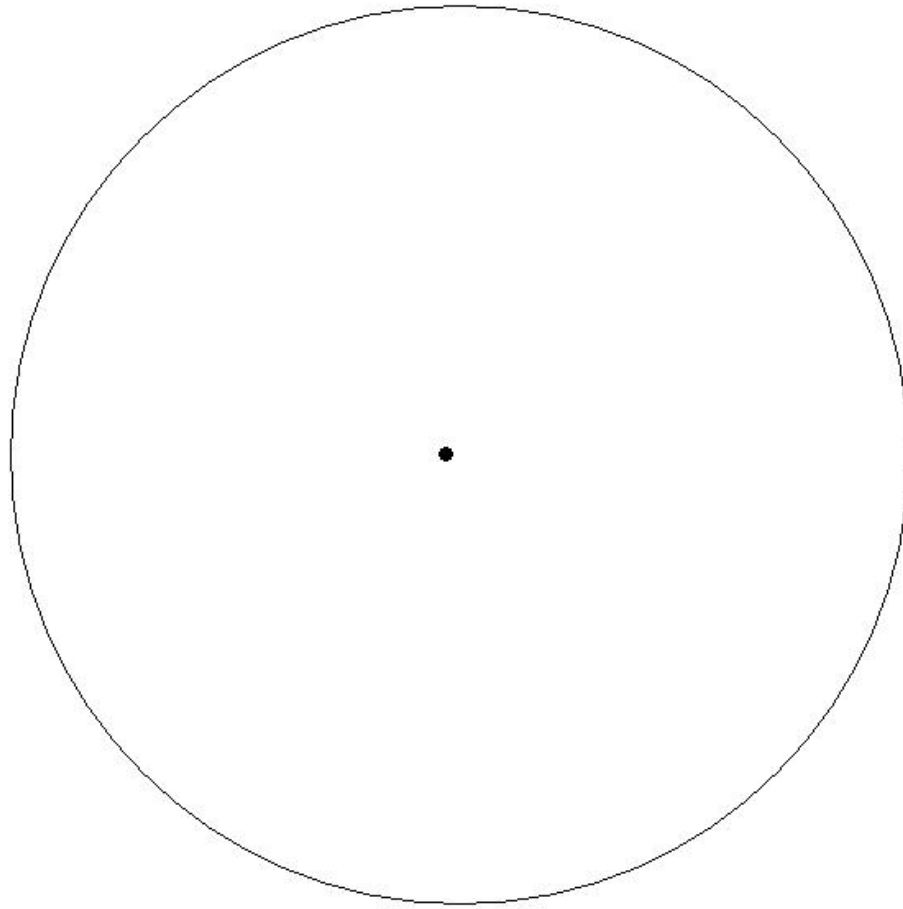
Write a response on the lines below.

9. Choose one season of the liturgical year. Describe everything you know about that season.

10. Why do you think the Church remembers and celebrates the same story year after year?







Catholic Faith Words

liturgical year the feasts and seasons of the Church calendar that celebrate the Paschal Mystery of Christ.