

Lesson 2: Liturgical year

Please click twice to watch the video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tS8d71oHOX0>

For Catholics, the Church year is the [Liturgical Year](#), a sequence of seasons and feasts that are celebrated in the liturgy—the official public prayer of the Church—during a year’s time. In each liturgical year, we celebrate the entire life of Jesus Christ from his birth to his Resurrection, Ascension, and sending of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

Liturgy is another word for the Mass.

Below is a brief description of the seasons we celebrate during the liturgical year.

Advent begins the liturgical year. During Advent we prepare to celebrate Jesus’ birth and await Christmas, the celebration of the coming of the Son of God, Jesus Christ.

During the **Christmas** season, we celebrate that God is with us always. The Christmas season begins on Christmas Day, December 25th.

Ordinary Time is divided into two parts. The first falls between Christmas and Lent. During this season, we celebrate the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and what it means to be his disciple.

Ash Wednesday begins the season of **Lent**. During Lent we remember that Jesus suffered, died, and rose to new life. We pray, give alms, and fast in order to grow closer to Jesus and to one another. During Lent, we support those preparing for the Sacraments of Christian Initiation.

The Easter **Triduum** is the Church’s greatest celebration. Triduum lasts three days (from Holy Thursday evening until Easter Sunday) and we remember and celebrate in the liturgy, with many traditions and rituals, the Suffering, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The season of **Easter** begins on Easter Sunday and continues until Pentecost Sunday. During the Easter season we rejoice in Jesus’ Resurrection and in the new life we have in Jesus Christ.

The second part of **Ordinary Time** occurs between the seasons of Easter and Advent.

Liturgies celebrated during the different seasons of the liturgical year have distinctive music and specific readings, prayers, rituals, and colors. All of these work together to reflect the spirit of the particular season. The colors of the vestments that the priest wears during the liturgy also help express the character of the mysteries being celebrated.

LITURGICAL COLORS

AND WHAT THEY MEAN

PURPLE	RED	ROSE/PINK	GREEN	WHITE/GOLD
				
<p>Penance Preparation</p> <p>Used during Advent and Lent</p>	<p>Sacrifice</p> <p>Used during Passion Sunday, Good Friday, Pentecost and the feast of the Apostles and martyrs</p>	<p>Anticipation</p> <p>Used on the third Sunday in Advent and the fourth Sunday during Lent</p>	<p>Hope, Life & Growth</p> <p>Used throughout Ordinary Time</p>	<p>Joy & Purity</p> <p>Used during Easter & Christmas seasons and feasts of the Blessed Mother, angels and saints who weren't martyred</p>

