

## THE LITURGICAL YEAR

## LEVELS 3 AND 4

Use the information on the following pages to help the children understand the colours and structure of the Liturgical Year. The activities on pages 3-5 will help consolidate their learning.

### SOME FACTS ABOUT THE CHURCH YEAR

- The Church year begins on the first Sunday of Advent and ends on the Feast of Christ the King.
- The Church year is divided into different seasons just like the calendar year.
- We can tell which season we are in by the different coloured vestments that the priest wears when celebrating Mass



In Advent the priest wears **purple**, the colour of royalty. This reminds us that we are waiting to welcome Christ, the King.

The same colour is worn during Lent. During the celebration of the sacrament of Reconciliation the priest wears a purple stole.

White or gold vestments are worn for the seasons of Christmas and Easter, times of great joy in the Church Year. These colours are also worn for the Feasts of Our Lord, such as the Baptism of the Lord and for Feasts of Mary such as the Immaculate Conception. These colours are also worn for the celebrations of weddings, baptisms and on Holy Thursday.



In Ordinary Time the priest wears **green**. **Green** is a symbol of life and hope.

**Red**, colour of blood, is worn on Palm Sunday and Good Friday, those days when we celebrate the passion of Jesus. **Red** is also the colour of fire which reminds us of the Holy Spirit. So, **red** vestments are worn on the Feast of Pentecost and for the sacrament of Confirmation.



### THE SEASONS OF THE CHURCH YEAR ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Advent, Christmas, Ordinary Time, Lent, Easter and Ordinary Time

## THE CHURCH YEAR IS ALSO CALLED THE LITURGICAL YEAR.

There are **three Liturgical Years A, B, and C**. In each of these three years we hear the story of Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection told from the point of view of the different writers of the Gospel.

In **Year A** most of the Gospels are from Matthew, in **Year B** from Mark and in **Year C** from Luke.

John's Gospel can be heard in all three years mostly during the Easter Season.

This year in Advent we begin **Year A!**

## THE NEW LITURGICAL YEAR - A NEW YEAR FOR THE CHURCH

### READ AND THEN ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

Advent is the first season of the liturgical year. It begins four Sundays before Christmas and it is a time of preparation for Christmas. After Advent comes the Christmas season. This season begins with the Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve and ends on the feast of the Baptism of the Lord on the Sunday after January 6.

### FIND OUT:

*(Use the Advent Calendar for 2016 to help you)*

1: What date is the first Sunday of Advent this year?

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2: How many Sundays are there in Advent?

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3: What day of the week is Christmas day this year?

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4: What is the season of Advent for?

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5: What do we celebrate on the last day of the Christmas season?

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6: What feast do we celebrate on January 6?

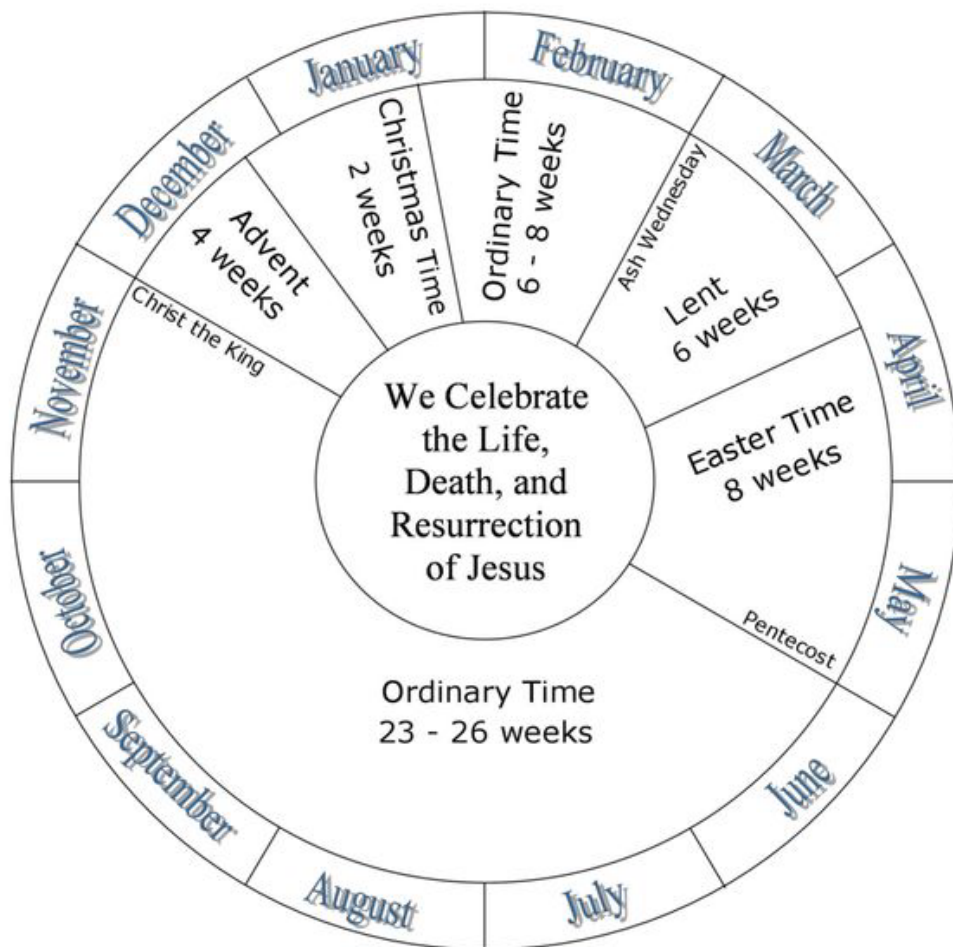
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7: Name three saints that have feast days during the Advent season.

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# COLOURS OF THE LITURGICAL YEAR

Colour each section of the wheel using the correct liturgical colour



## THE LITURGICAL YEAR

Using the information in the right hand column, draw a Liturgical Year Chart in your copy. Colour it in using the information in the left hand column.

### READ ABOUT THE LITURGICAL OR CHURCH YEAR

The Liturgical year is a way of marking the cycle of the important feasts which we celebrate throughout the year. It also tells us which readings from the bible should be used and what colours the priest wears. Some of the events which are celebrated during the Church year always fall on the same day, like Christmas and the feasts associated with Our Lady, but others are movable, like Easter. All of the events associated with Easter, like Ash Wednesday and Pentecost, depend on the date of Easter Sunday and so are called movable. The chart below helps us to understand the movement of the Church year that begins on November 27 this year.

ADVENT (28 DAYS)	The four weeks before Christmas are called Advent.
CHRISTMAS: (15 DAYS APPROX)	The Christmas Season begins at the Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve and finishes on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (Jan 8, 2017) which is celebrated on the Sunday after January 6, the Feast of the Epiphany.
ORDINARY TIME (51 DAYS IN 2017)	Ordinary time is that time of the Church year that is outside the Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter seasons. There are usually 34 weeks in Ordinary Time although occasionally there are only 33.
LENT (40 DAYS)	The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (March 1, 2017) and ends on the Thursday of Holy Week. It lasts for 40 days.
THE TRIDUUM (3 DAYS)	The Triduum is the name given to three days of Holy Week. It begins on the evening of <b>Holy Thursday</b> continues through <b>Good Friday</b> , <b>Holy Saturday</b> and concludes on the evening of <b>Easter Sunday</b> . The colours of the Triduum change from day to day. <b>The date of Easter Sunday changes every year because it is celebrated on the first Sunday, after the first full moon, after March 21.</b>
EASTER (50 DAYS)	The Easter Season begins on Easter Sunday and lasts until Pentecost Sunday which is 50 days.
ORDINARY TIME (182 DAYS IN 2017)	The second and final cycle of Ordinary Time begins on the Monday after Pentecost and lasts until the Feast of Christ the King.

## Test your Knowledge of the Liturgical Year



What date is the first Sunday of Advent this year?

How many Sundays are there in Advent?

What day of the week is Christmas day this year?

What is the season of Advent for?

What colour vestment does the priest wear on Christmas Day?

What season of the Church Year follows the Christmas season?

What colour vestment does the priest wear in Ordinary Time?

When does the Church year end?

How many Liturgical Years are there?

Can you name them?

What is the last day of the Church year called?

What colour vestment does the priest wear on the Feast of Pentecost?

Which gospel do we listen to most this Liturgical Year?

What colour vestment does the priest wear on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception?

The priest wears purple vestments in which seasons?

In Year A of the Liturgical Year, the gospels are mostly from which writer?

What colour vestments will the priest wear on the first Sunday of Advent?

When are white vestments worn?

Which gospel do we listen to during Year B?

How many Sundays are in the Lenten season?