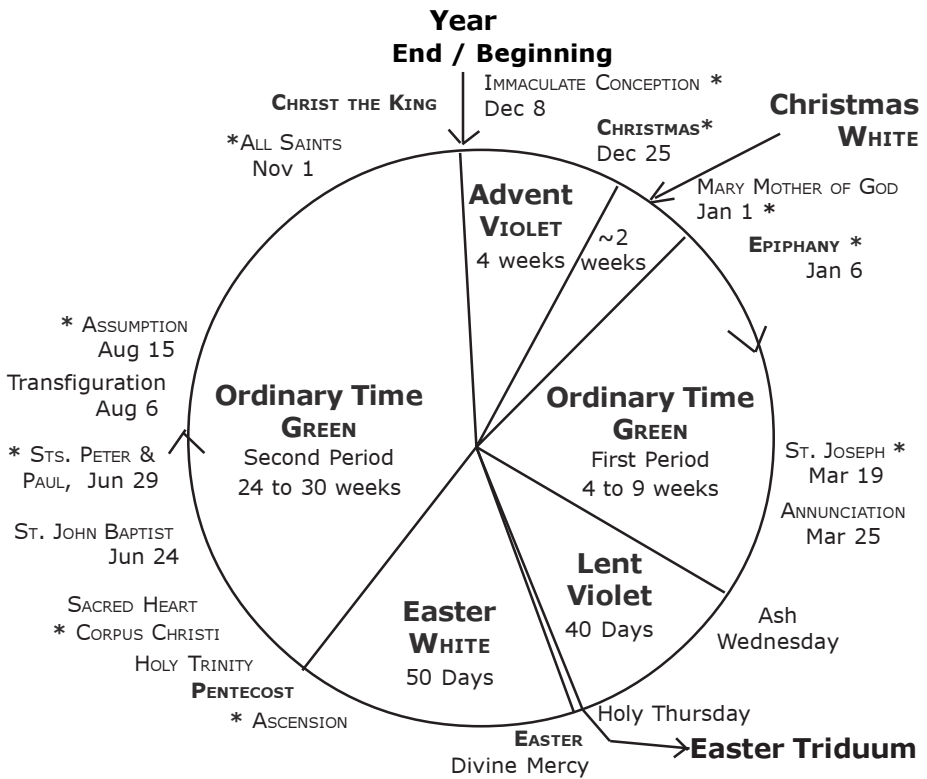


LITURGICAL SEASONS AND FEASTS *



THE LITURGICAL YEAR begins on the first Sunday of Advent (closest Sunday to Nov. 30) and ends with the week following the Feast of Christ the King. The year is divided into five **SEASONS** plus the Triduum: Advent, Christmas, Ordinary Time (2 periods), Lent, Easter Triduum, and Easter. Each season has its own color for liturgical vestments.

EASTER is celebrated on the 1st Sunday after the 1st full moon following the spring equinox.^{30a} The date for Easter determines most of the dates for the liturgical seasons and for many feasts.

The dates for the celebration of the following **SOLEMNITIES** change yearly: Easter, Ascension, Pentecost, Holy Trinity, Corpus Christi, Sacred Heart, and Christ the King. Solemnities are first in order of importance, followed by Feasts, and Memorials: obligatory and optional.

The asterisks * mark Holy Days of Obligation (def. Part Five, Catholic Glossary; cf. CCC 2177). Some of these feasts can be moved to a Sunday or abolished by a conference of bishops. Calendar for Solemnities, Feasts and Memorials: see the *Roman Missal*, a perpetual missalet, or *The Ordo* (liturgical calendar) published for your diocese. 30a. The spring equinox occurs between March 22 and April 25. Equinox: see Part Five, Catholic Glossary; Appendix 'A', Comparative Calendar of Catholic and Judaic Feasts.

Color: symbol	LITURGICAL SEASONS & RELATED COLORS
<p>Green: <i>Hope & Vitality</i></p>	<p>Ordinary Time: (33-34 weeks over two periods) - the 1st period starts on the Monday following the Sunday after <i>Epiphany</i>, and lasts until the Tuesday before <i>Ash Wednesday</i> (1st day of Lent). - the 2nd period starts Monday after <i>Pentecost</i> (end of Easter season) and ends with the week that follows the feast of <i>Christ the King</i> (last Sunday of liturgical year). The beginning and closing dates of these two periods vary each year according to the date of Easter.</p>
<p>Violet/Purple: <i>Prayer & Penance</i></p>	<p>Advent: (4 weeks) starts on the Sunday after <i>Christ the King</i> and lasts until <i>Christmas Eve</i>. Lent: (40 days before Easter - March/April) from <i>Ash Wednesday</i> to before the eve of <i>Holy Thursday</i>; violet on <i>Holy Saturday</i>. Violet, white or black may be used at funeral Masses and for Masses for the Dead.</p>
<p>White: <i>Purity and Integrity of Life & Faith</i></p>	<p>Christmas Season: lasts from <i>Christmas Eve</i> until the Sunday after <i>Epiphany</i> (~2 weeks). Easter Season: (50 days) from <i>Easter Sunday</i> to the Saturday before <i>Pentecost</i>. White is also used on <i>Solemnities</i> (including the eve of <i>Holy Thursday</i>, excluding the Lord's Passion), feasts of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Holy Angels, and the Saints (except feast of the Martyrs).</p>
<p>Red: <i>Blood of Christ & Martyrs, and Holy Spirit Fire</i></p>	<p>Palm Sunday, Good Friday, Pentecost, celebrations of the Lord's Passion, and feasts of the Apostles, Evangelists and Martyr Saints.</p>
<p>Rose: <i>Joy of Anticipation</i></p>	<p>3rd Sunday of Advent & 4th Sunday of Lent. During these periods of penance rose expresses the joy in waiting for Christmas and then Easter.</p>

THE LITURGICAL SEASONS determine the colors used for the liturgical vestments worn by the priest to celebrate the Mass (chasuble and stole), as well as the color chosen for sanctuary adornments (ornament for the tabernacle, the ambo, the altar, the burse, and chalice veil). Throughout the seasons the color of the liturgical vestments changes for solemnities, feast days and special occasions (baptism, funerals...).
LITURGICAL COLORS: cf. GIRM [308] 346.