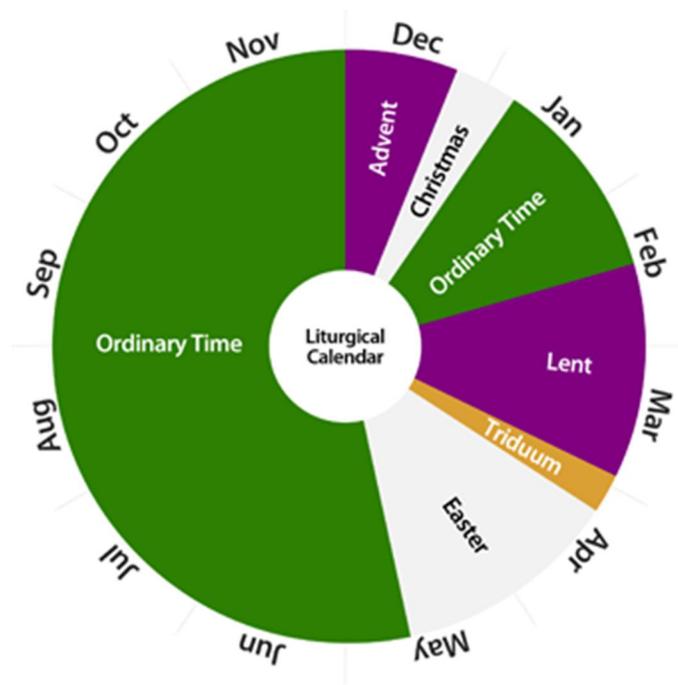


## THE LITURGICAL YEAR CLASSROOM AND ALL-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES



### Advent - The liturgical season of four weeks devoted to preparation for the coming of Christ at Christmas (CCC 524).

- ❖ Celebrated in December
- ❖ Dec. 6 – Memorial of St. Nicholas
- ❖ Dec. 8 – Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary (Holy Day of Obligation)
  - ❑ This dogma proclaimed in Christian Tradition and defined in 1854, that from the first moment of her conception, Mary – by the singular grace of God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ – was preserved immune from original sin (CCC 491).
- ❖ Dec. 12 – Memorial of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Patroness of the Americas)
- ❑ Advent Calendars within the classrooms counting down the days until Christmas – offering prayers, gifts and/or rewards.
- ❑ All-school prayer services once week celebrating a theme of Advent for each week.
- ❑ Have St. Nicholas visit. Read, view, enjoy the story of St. Nicholas and his good deeds.
- ❑ Attend Mass on the Immaculate Conception.
- ❑ Pray the Rosary as a school on the Immaculate Conception and Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.
- ❑ Prepare and practice for the Christmas Program.
- ❑ Collect gifts/food/clothing for the needy.
- ❑ Advent wreaths within the classrooms.
- ❑ Reconciliation

### Christmas - The feast of the Nativity, the birth of Jesus (CCC 1171).

- ❖ Begins on Christmas Eve and is celebrated through the Epiphany
- ❖ Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve
- ❖ Dec. 25 – Christmas Day (Holy Day of Obligation)
- ❖ Dec. 31 – Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

- ◆ Jan. 1 – Solemnity of Mary Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation)
- ◆ Jan. 6 – Epiphany
  - The feast that celebrates the manifestation to the world of the newborn Christ as Messiah, Son of God, and Savior of the world. The feast of Epiphany celebrates the adoration of Jesus by the wise men (magi) from the east, together with his baptism in the Jordan and the wedding feast of Cana in Galilee (CCC 528; cf. 535).
- ✚ Christmas Programs normally take place before the Christmas season. Some schools have an Epiphany Pageant rather than a Christmas Program.
- ✚ Nativity scene in the school and/or individual classrooms.
- ✚ Keep Christmas decorations present within the school until the Epiphany

**Ordinary Time – The name given to the weeks in the course of the year which celebrate no particular moment or aspect of Christian mystery, but rather the fullness of our faith.**

- ◆ Feast of the Baptism of the Lord
- ◆ Feast of the Presentation of the Lord
- ✚ Catholic Schools Week is celebrated the last week of January. Many activities and promotional events for the school are held.

**Lent – A penitential season of forty weekdays that prepare for Easter (CCC 540, 1438)**

- ◆ Ash Wednesday (Day of Fasting)
- ◆ March 19 – Solemnity of St. Joseph
- ◆ March 26 – Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord
  - The visit of the angel Gabriel to the virgin Mary to inform her that she was to be the mother of the Savior. After giving her consent to God's word, Mary became the mother of Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit (CCC 484, 494).
- ✚ Attend Mass on Ash Wednesday and receive the Ashes.
- ✚ Set a time aside every week to pray the Stations of the Cross as a whole school.
- ✚ Hold a weekly prayer service with a designated theme for Lent.
- ✚ Perform service projects for those in need.
- ✚ Have students give up something or do something more as a sacrifice for Lent.
- ✚ No meat is eaten on Fridays.
- ✚ Reconciliation

**Holy Week - The week preceding Easter, beginning with Palm (Passion) Sunday, called the "Great Week" in the liturgies of the Eastern Churches. It marks the Church's annual celebration of the events of Christ's passion, death, and resurrection, culminating in the Paschal Mystery (CCC 1169). (Colors vary depending on day—white, red and purple)**

- ◆ Palm Sunday
- Triduum**
- ◆ Holy Thursday Night
- ◆ Good Friday of the Lord's Passion
- ◆ Holy Saturday/Easter Vigil

-  Hold a Seder Meal to commemorate the Passover/Last Supper
-  Pray the Stations of the Cross

**Easter - The greatest and oldest Christian feast, which celebrates Christ's Resurrection from the dead. Easter is the "feast of feasts", the solemnity of solemnities, the "Great Sunday". Christians prepare for it during Lent and Holy Week, and catechumens usually receive the Sacraments of Christian Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist) at the Easter Vigil (CCC 1169; cf. 647).**

- ◆ Solemnity of the Ascension (Holy Day of Obligation)
  - The entry of Jesus' humanity into divine glory in God's heavenly domain, forty days after His Resurrection (CCC 659,665).
- ◆ Pentecost (Holy Day of Obligation)
  - The "fiftieth" day at the end of the seven weeks following Passover (Easter in the Christian dispensation). At the first Pentecost after the Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus, the Holy Spirit was manifested, given and communicated as a divine Person to the Church, fulfilling the paschal mystery of Christ according to His promise (726, 731; cf.1287). Annually the Church celebrates the memory of the Pentecost event as the beginning of the new "age of the Church", when Christ lives and acts in and with His Church (CCC 1076).

-  May is the "Month of Mary"
-  Pray the Rosary once a week as a school.
-  Pray a decad of the Rosary every day within the classrooms.
-  Hold a May Crowning
-  Hold a prayer service for the Unborn

**Ordinary Time – The name given to the weeks in the course of the year which celebrate no particular moment or aspect of Christian mystery, but rather the fullness of our faith.**

- ◆ Feast of the Visitation
  - ◆ August 15 – Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary
    - The dogma that recognizes the Blessed Virgin Mary's singular participation in her Son's Resurrection by which she was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory, when the course of her earthly life was finished (CCC 2124-5).
  - ◆ September 8 – Feast of the Birth of Mary
  - ◆ October 2 – Memorial of the Guardian Angels
  - ◆ November 1 – All Saints' Day (Holy Day of Obligation)
  - ◆ November 2 – All Souls' Day
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-  October is the month of the Rosary.
  -  Pray the Rosary once a week as a school.
  -  Pray a decad of the Rosary every day within the classrooms.
  -  Rather than a Halloween Party have students dress up as Saints.
  -  Pray the Angelus every day before or after lunch
  -  All school daily opening prayer