

The Liturgical Year/Sacred Time

Opening Prayer

Lord, because you have made me, I owe you the whole of my love; because you have redeemed me, I owe you the whole of myself; because you have promised so much, I owe you all my being. Moreover, I owe you as much more love than myself as you are greater than I, for whom you gave yourself and to whom you promised yourself. I pray you, Lord, make me taste by love what I taste by knowledge; let me know by love what I know by understanding. I owe you more than my whole self, but I have no more, and by myself I cannot render the whole of it to you. Draw me to you, Lord, in the fullness of love. I am wholly yours by creation; make me all yours, too, in love. (prayer of Anselm, 1033-1109 AD) "

Introduction

When God became man, God entered time and made it sacred. It is sacred throughout the whole year, each weekday, especially Sunday. Our whole salvation depended upon Christ entering time (called the incarnation). The Word, the second person of the Trinity became flesh and dwelt among us. The word is a person not a book and The Church is the mystical body of Christ. Jesus said, "If you remain in my word, you will truly be my disciple, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" John 8: 31-32. Jesus said, "Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches, whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing" John 15:4-5.

We continue to live out and participate in the life of Christ by following the liturgical calendar. The life and mystery of Christ is unfolded throughout the course of the year. It calls us to live his mystery in our own lives as part of our call to holiness. This call is best illustrated in the lives of Mary and the saints, celebrated by the Church throughout the year.

There is no tension between the mystery of Christ and the celebration of the saints, but rather a marvelous harmony. The Blessed Virgin Mary is joined by an inseparable bond to the saving work of her Son, and the feasts of all the saints proclaim the wonderful works of Christ in his servants and offer the faithful fitting examples for their imitation. In the feasts of Mary and of the saints, the Paschal Mystery of Christ is proclaimed and renewed.

We come to see and know God through Creation

God left us signs of himself in creation. When we see with God's eyes, we see him and his beauty in everything and every person around us.

"Ever since the creation of the world, his invisible attributes of eternal power and divinity have been able to be understood and perceived in what he has made" Romans 1:20

"By the Lords' word (The Son) the heavens were made; by the breath (The Holy Spirit) of his mouth all their host. He gathered the waters of the sea as a mound; he sets the deep into storage vaults. Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all who dwell in the world show him reverence. For he spoke, and it came to be, commanded and it stood in place." Psalm 33:6- 9

"All the earth falls in worship before you; they sing of you, sing of your name!" – Psalm 66

Psalm 148 – All creation summoned to praise

“The heavens declare the glory of God; the firmament proclaims the work of his hands. Day unto day pours forth speech, night unto night whispers knowledge. There is no speech, no words; their voice is not heard; a report goes forth through all the earth, their messages to the ends of the world. He has pitched for them a tent for the sun; it comes forth like a bridegroom from his canopy, and like a hero joyfully runs its course. From one end of the heavens, it comes forth; its course runs through to the other; nothing escapes its heat.” – Psalm 19

Psalm 96, Psalm 65: 7-14

THE LITURGICAL YEAR (Cycle)– SIX SEASONS

The liturgy is the memory of the Church. It is the primary organ of the magisterium (Pius XI) and it is Tradition itself at highest degree of power and solemnity.

Liturgical Season	Timeframe	Liturgical Colors
<p>Advent a penitential season made up of 4 Sundays and it is a preparation before the celebration of Jesus' birth and the beginning of the Church Year.</p>	<p>11/27/23 -1st Sunday of Advent 12/8/23 - Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Patron of the United States), a Holy Day of Obligation 12/10/23 – 2nd Sunday of Advent 12/17/23 – 3rd Sunday of Advent 12/24/23 – 4th Sunday of Advent</p> <p>Advent ends before the evening Mass for the Vigil of Christmas.</p>	<p>Purple – Signifies humility, and penitence</p> <p>Rose – Used on the 3rd Sunday of Advent to symbolizes joy and love</p>
<p>Christmas The Nativity of Our Lord or Christ’s Mass</p>	<p>Begins on the evening of Dec. 24 and extends for eight days (octave feast) that ends on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.</p> <p>12/25/23 – Christmas Day 12/31/23 - First Sunday after Christmas – Feast of the Holy Family 1/1/24 - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God 1/7/24 -Second Sunday after Christmas – Epiphany 1/8/24 - Third Sunday after Christmas – Feast of the Baptism of the Lord</p>	<p>Gold or White – symbolizes glory, joy, innocence, and purity of soul</p>
<p>Ordinary Time Ordered time when the faithful consider the fullness of Jesus' teachings and works among his people</p>	<p>1/9/24 - After the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord Ordinary Time begins</p> <p>Spans 4-8 weeks after Christmas.</p>	<p>Green – signifies Hope</p>
<p>Lent A six-week penitential season before Easter</p>	<p>2/14/24 - Ash Wednesday, Lent begins 2/18/24 – 1st Sunday 2/25/24 – 2nd Sunday 3/3/24 – 3rd Sunday 3/10/24 – 4th Sunday 3/17/24 – 5th Sunday, begins Passiontide</p>	<p>Purple – Signifies humility and penitence</p> <p>Rose – Used on the 4th Sunday of Lent, symbolizes joy and love</p>

<p>Passiontide, Holy Week, and the Sacred Paschal Triduum (one mass over three days)</p>	<p>3/24/24 - Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord Easter Triduum 3/25/24 – Holy week begins 3/28/24 - Holy Thursday, Lent ends before the Mass of the Lord’s Supper and Triduum begins 3/29/24 - Good Friday 3/30/24 - Holy Saturday 3/31/24 - Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord, Triduum ends.</p>	<p>Red – Signifies the fire of charity and Christ’s blood shed for our salvation</p>
<p>Easter celebration of the Lord's resurrection from the dead and his sending forth of the Holy Spirit</p>	<p>Traditionally lasts for 50 days; forty days from Easter Sunday to Ascension Thursday and then another nine days until the Feast of Pentecost. 4/7/24 - Second Sunday of Easter Divine Mercy Sunday In the United States, the Feast of the Ascension is transferred from Thursday to the following Sunday. 5/12/24 - Ascension of the Lord 5/19/24- Pentecost Sunday (prayed for 9 days, novenas)</p>	<p>Gold or White – Symbolizes glory, joy, innocence, and purity of soul</p>
<p>Ordinary Time Ordered time when the faithful consider the fullness of Jesus' teachings and works among his people</p>	<p>5/20/24 - Begins The Monday following Pentecost Sunday 5/26/24 - First Sunday after Pentecost – Trinity Sunday 6/2/24 - Second Sunday after Pentecost – The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (The Feast of Corpus Christi) 8/15/24 - Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Holy Day of Obligation) 11/1/24 - Solemnity of All Saints Day 11/2/24 - All Soul’s Day 11/24/24 - 34th or Last Sunday in Ordinary Time – Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe The following Sunday begins the Season of Advent and the calendar starts over.</p>	<p>Green – signifies Hope</p>

There is a Civil/Secular calendar (Romans developed by Julius Caesar, based on the revolution of the Earth around the Sun) and there is the Church Calendar. The names of each month and week day of our calendar have pagan origins, but each month and day in the church is dedicated to a Christian element.

The Months

January – The Holy Name of Jesus, February – The Holy Family, March - St. Joseph, April – The Holy Eucharist, May – The Blessed Virgin Mary, June – The Sacred Heart, July – The Precious Blood of Jesus, August – The Immaculate Heart of Mary, Sept. – Seven Sorrows of Our Lady, October- The Holy Rosary, November – The Holy Souls in Purgatory, December- The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The Days of the Week

Sunday – The Lord’s Day, Monday - Holy Spirit and the Souls in Purgatory, Tuesday-Holy Angels, Wednesday – St. Joseph, Thursday – The Blessed Sacrament, Friday – remember Good Friday, Saturday – The Blessed Virgin Mary

The Order of Mass follows the Liturgical Calendar and the Life of Christ

The Parts of Mass	Liturgical Calendar	Life of Christ
Silence and Prayer prior to Mass	Advent	Immaculate Conception – Mary was conceived without original sin.
Introductory Rites	Advent	The Annunciation and Incarnation/Pregnancy
The Liturgy of the Word	Christmas/Lent	Birth of Jesus, childhood of Christ and Jesus Public Ministry
The Liturgy of the Eucharist	Tridium /Easter	Jesus Death and Resurrection
The Communion Rite	Tridium /Easter	Jesus Death and Resurrection
The Concluding Rites	Pentecost	Ascension and Sending of the Holy Spirit
Spread the Gospel	Ordinary/Ordered Time	Jesus Public Ministry

The Path of Discipleship/Sacraments follow the Liturgical Calendar and the life of Christ

“The fruit of **Silence** is **Prayer**, the fruit of **Prayer** is **Faith**, the fruit of **Faith** is **Love**, the fruit of **Love** is **Service**, and the fruit of **Service** is **Peace.**” – **Mother Teresa**

Regarding Prayer: “Faith cannot remain alive without prayer.” Continue to pray always, Yes. pray! pray! pray! Prayer will procure you everything.” All prayers are good when they proceed from the heart” – Our Lady of Medjugorje.

Our lives are meant to be an unblemished offering to the Lord just as Jesus offered his life for his Father on the cross. Every minute of every day of every week of every month of every year of our life is meant to be given

back in service to God and the Church. Our lives are like a votive candle and they are a prayer of Thanksgiving offered to God.

Liturgical Calendar	Stage of Discipleship	Sacraments
Advent	Silence and Prayer	Called by the Holy Spirit
Christmas	Faith	Reconciliation/Baptism
Lent	Silence and Prayer	Called by the Holy Spirit
Easter	Faith	First Communion
Pentecost	Love	Confirmation
Ordinary/Ordered Time	Service/Peace	Full Discipleship

Closing Prayer

O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer you my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day for all the intentions of your Sacred Heart, in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world, for the salvation of souls, the reparation of sins, the reunion of all Christians, and in particular for the intentions of the Holy Father this month. Amen.