

The Christian Liturgical Calendar

The Colors

Blue (alternate for Advent) represents royalty.

Gold (alternative for Christmas and Easter) symbolizes preciousness and joy.

Green (Ordinary Time) symbolizes renewal and spiritual growth.

Purple (traditional for Advent and Lent) marks penitential seasons prior to Christmas and Easter.

Violet (alternate for Lent) symbolizes pain and suffering.

Red (Pentecost) reflects the tongues of fire/the Holy Spirit.

White (traditional for Christmas and Easter) symbolizes purity, holiness and virtue.

The Seasons of the Church Year

Advent (purple or blue), a penitential season, begins the church year and extends through the four weeks leading up to . . .

Christmas (white or gold) begins at sundown on December 24 and lasts for 12 days until . . .

Epiphany (Jan. 6) marks the visit of the Magi to the Christ child. The following Sunday celebrates the baptism of Jesus (white) and signals the start of . . .

Ordinary Time or Epiphany Season (green), a time focused on Jesus' early ministry that lasts until Transfiguration Sunday (white) just before . . .

Lent (purple), a penitential season that begins on Ash Wednesday, consists of 40 days (not counting Sundays) and is reminiscent of Jesus' sojourn in the wilderness. Generally Lent runs through the Holy week, which begins on Passion/Palm Sunday and recalls the last events of Jesus' life.

Colors are often removed and the cross draped in black for Good Friday and Holy Saturday while we await . . .

Easter season's (white or gold) unbridled joy and celebration, which concludes with . . .

Pentecost's (red) celebration of the birth of the Christian church and the gift of the Holy Spirit, which is followed by Trinity Sunday (white), which moves us to . . .

Ordinary Time or Kingdomtide (green) the last season of a church year that ends with Christ the King Sunday (white).

