

Our Church Year (page 2)

To complete this activity, you will need to refer to this year's calendar (we'll call it Calendar I), and to next year's calendar (Calendar II).

1. Advent/Christmas Seasons

On Calendar I, find Christmas Day, December 25, and count back to the Sunday *before* Christmas. This is the 4th Sunday of Advent. Put its date in the box. Still moving backwards on Calendar I, find the dates for the 3rd, 2nd, and 1st Sundays of Advent. Write them in their boxes. Next, find the dates for the two Sundays *following* Christmas: Holy Family and Epiphany. Write their dates in their boxes.

2. Lent Season/Triduum

Using Calendar II, find the date for Easter and write it in the Easter box. The Sunday *before* Easter is Passion/Palm Sunday. Write the date in its box. Still moving backwards from Easter, write the dates of the 5th, 4th, 3rd, 2nd, and 1st Sundays of Lent in the correct boxes. Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, is the Wednesday *before* the 1st Sunday of Lent. Write the date for Ash Wednesday in its circle. The three days immediately preceding Easter make up the Triduum. The Triduum is the time from the Evening Mass on Holy Thursday to Evening Prayer on Easter Sunday. Find the dates for Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday and put them in the correct circle.

3. Easter Season

Now find the dates for the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th Sundays *following* Easter and write them in the appropriate boxes. Ascension Thursday is the 40th day of Easter Time (include Easter Sunday when you count). Put the correct date in its circle. Pentecost Sunday is the 50th day of Easter Time. Put its date in the box. Pentecost is followed by Trinity Sunday and the Body and Blood of Christ. Add the correct dates in their boxes.

Name _____

4. The Church Year Ends

The Feast of Christ the King is the last Sunday of the Church year, but not of the calendar year! It *precedes* the first Sunday of Advent, which then begins the *next* new Church year. Find the date for Christmas and count back to the 1st Sunday of Advent (just like you did in Step 1, but use Calendar II this time). The Sunday *before* the 1st Sunday of Advent is Christ the King. Write its date in the box.

5. Holy Days

In addition to Sundays, there are six days when Catholics in the United States are obliged to attend Mass. Write the dates of these feasts in the appropriate circles of your Church Year calendar if they don't already appear there:

- Immaculate Conception: December 8
- Christmas: December 25
- Mary, Mother of God: January 1
- Ascension: 40th day of Easter
- Assumption: August 15
- All Saints: November 1

6. Liturgical Colors

Now color the days on your calendar. You probably already know that the priest wears different colors depending on the time of year.

- *Purple* means penance and preparation. Color Advent and Lent days purple. (If you wish, color the 3rd Sunday of Advent and the 4th Sunday of Lent rose. That color shows that the Church is happy because the time of preparing for Christmas and Easter is coming to an end.)
- *Green* means hope and growth. Color Ordinary Time green.
- *White* means joy and purity. Color Christmas Time, Easter Time, and all holy days white.
- *Red* means the fire of the Holy Spirit. Color Pentecost red.