

What is a Liturgical Calendar?

Why do we have 4 colors of prayer cloths?

The Liturgical Calendar is like any other calendar but is specific to the seasons of the Church year. It records the life of our family of faith. The Church teaches, "Within the cycle of a year, the Church unfolds the whole mystery of Christ, from his incarnation and birth until his ascension, the day of Pentecost and the expectation of blessed hope of the Lord's return."*

We celebrate the Life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus through the year. As a household discuss the different parts of the Liturgical Calendar and what happens throughout the year.

The church seasons are as follows:

Advent (purple) – Jesus is coming...Signifies humility and penitence

Christmas (white) – Jesus is born...

Ordinary Time (green) – Jesus teaches...Signifies hope

Lent (purple) – Jesus will die and rise...Signifies humility and penitence

Easter (white) – Jesus rises...signifies celebration, joy, and peace

Pentecost (red) – Birthday of the Catholic church when Holy Spirit came upon the apostles 50 days after the Resurrection of Christ...Signifies the fire of charity and blood shed for Christ

Now you know why there are four colors of Prayer Cloths in Your Take Away Bag! As the church seasons change, your household can change the color of your prayer cloth to match the Liturgical Season. If you have children, this is a great activity for them.

When your family goes to Mass, look around the church and take notice of the color that is featured on the altar table and around the church. What color is the priest wearing? The color of the priest vestments will match the liturgical color of the season also!

*Quotation from Chapter 5 of the *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* of Vatican Council II.