

Different Liturgical Seasons and Different areas of the Church

I. Different Liturgical Seasons and Vestments

- A. Advent is the beginning of the Liturgical Year around first of December and last four weeks. It is a time of preparing ourselves for Christmas along with remembering Christ coming 2000 years ago and coming again at the end of time. It also includes an element of penance as we wait for Christmas and Jesus coming. The color is purple, and it is a color of royalty and sovereignty of a King. The purple demonstrates the anticipation of the coming King. Advent wreath has three purple colors represent penance and pink or rose represents joyfulness. Advent wreath reminds us of both the immortality of our souls and God's promise of everlasting life to us through Christ.
- B. Christmas is remembering Christ coming Incarnate or becoming fully a human being. The last day of Christmas season is the Baptism of the Lord. White or gold is the vestment choice because it represents joy, innocence, purity, and glory. When is the crib blessed and when did the custom of putting of manger, crib etc starts. It started with St. Francis of Assisi in 1223 and normally takes place during the Christmas Vigil Mass.
- C. Ordinary Time occurs between Christmas and Lent and after Easter Season until Advent. Green is worn to represent the anticipation and hope in the resurrection of Christ. It symbolizes the hope of each new day.

- D. Lent Purple is a color of penitence and fasting. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and ends sundown Holy Thursday. Ash Wednesday we get ashes that come from burnt palms from Palm Sunday. 40 days of Lent match Jesus 40 days in the desert. Sundays are part of Lent but not the fast and abstinence portion.
- E. Holy Week starts the weekend before Easter with Psalm Sunday and concluding with Holy Saturday and the Easter Vigil. At Palm Sunday, one gets Palms and it is the only Mass where two gospels are proclaimed. The Chrism Mass occurs the week of Holy Week and it is where the whole diocese gathers at the Cathedral and every parish receives oil for infirmed, oil for catechumenate, and sacred Chrism. Holy Thursday Mass begins the Triduum and Triduum ends with evening prayer on Easter Sunday. Good Friday or Passion Friday is where one of the Passion narratives is proclaimed, general intercessions prayed, veneration of the Cross takes place and the Eucharist consecrated from Holy Thursday are distributed. Easter Vigil is the highlight of the liturgical year and has multiple readings and those to be baptized come into the Church and if that is done then Christians baptized but not Catholic can be fully admitted into the Catholic Church.
- F. Easter is white or gold and signifies the resurrection of Jesus and triumph over death and evil. Easter ends on Pentecost with Ascension 40 days after Easter Sunday but many dioceses celebrate on nearest Sunday of Ascension.

It is a normal time to renew baptismal promises and sprinkling rite are done many times during Easter Season as a reminder of our baptism.

- G. Easter Season is fifty days long and ends with Pentecost.
- H. Pentecost and Martyrs the color red is used to represent Holy Spirit and for Martyrs blood.
- I. Marian feast days White is used for purity of Mary and non-martyr saints white is used.

II. Areas in Church

- A. Vestibule is the passage or hall or room between the outer door and the interior of a building.
- B. Narthex is a porch, lobby or gathering space that connects the outside to the main worship area.
- C. Nave is main body of the Catholic Church where the people gather during Mass and pews are located.
- D. Sanctuary-is the raised area where the front altar, back altar, ambo, cantor stand, and side altars are located. Before Vatican II priests would have a private Mass on one of the side altars. There was no front altar before Vatican II. There is also a first class relic in all altars (explain).
- E. Sacristy (s)- It is where vestments, candles, chalices, and other things needed for Mass are kept. It is where priest and deacon vest and sacristan set up for Mass.
- F. Baptismal Font or Baptismal Pool-

- G. Easter Candle stands near the altar during Easter Season and burns during Easter Season Masses. Easter Candle outside of Easter is near Baptismal Pool.
- H. Name different Saints in statues and a walk-through different saints and windows can be done on web site.
- I. Stain glass windows one reason was done because many people were illiterate and could look at a stain glass window and have described them what happened in the window to know the story and part of their faith.
- J. Stations of the Cross-The Franciscans started a devotion to the journey of Jesus crucifixion called the Via Delrosa when going to Israel. Eventually wanted a way to carry out this devotion without going to Jerusalem and the Franciscan made the Stations to be able to do this.
- K. Large Crucifix in back of Church is from The Assumption old Church.
- L. Grotto of the Immaculate Conception. Immaculate Conception became doctrine in 1854 and Mary appeared to St. Bernadette in 1858.