

Family Formation Classroom Lesson

What Goes Around Comes Around

October 2007

Grades 4, 5, and 6

FOCUS:

The liturgical year is the Church's way of marking the seasons that remember the life of Jesus and His Church. The goal of this lesson is to teach young children about the liturgical seasons.

GOAL:

To learn the words: liturgical, seasons, celebrations, Gospels. To understand that there is a rhythm to the seasons of the Church.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Family Formation:

Saturday, October 6

Monday, October 8

Catechist Training:

October 18, 2007

Praise and Prayer: 7:00 p.m.

Training: 7:15 p.m.

Saint's Yes!:

October 19, 2007

All Saint's Party:

October 31, 2007

The Liturgical Year

The liturgical year, sometimes called the "Church Year," celebrates the cycle of events in the life of Christ. The First Sunday in Advent is the "New Year" for the Church. The Church has a beautiful, yet mysterious, rhythm to its seasons that renews us as we participate fully in them. Just as the calendar year follows the sun, so too the Church year follows the life of the Son.



As each family learns and discovers the wisdom of the Church in its sacred celebrations, they will be transformed in their participation of the liturgy. In this lesson, you will discover the various liturgical colors which are associated with the seasons of the Church year. You will learn about the Holy Days of Obligation, the three-year cycle, and the Scriptures used in each.

The first cycle of each liturgical year begins in Advent which is centered on the preparation for the birth of Jesus. The Christmas season follows during which time we celebrate Jesus' birth, the feast of the Holy Family, Mary Mother of God, and Epiphany. This season ends with the Baptism of Jesus. The next part of the cycle finds us in Ordinary Time for a short while, until we begin the seasons of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. Easter Sunday is the greatest Christian feast of the liturgical year. After a wonderful, long celebration of the Easter season, which includes the Ascension and Pentecost, we find ourselves returning to Ordinary Time. This season continues well into the fall of the calendar year where we will finish the liturgical year with the great celebration of Christ the King.

So it is that, during the liturgical year, Catholics receive from the Church a way to reflect upon *and* live out the mysteries of our salvation in Jesus. Praise be to God!

PREPARE

Teacher's Prayer - Lord, You called me to teach this class of children. I call upon Your help now, and I rely on Your divine assistance to help me remember whatever is needed to teach these students. I want them to know Your love and Your plan for their lives. Please bless each of them in a special way this year. Help me to do the best I can. Send Your Holy Spirit into my classroom. Send angels to prepare the room and the children. I give You this entire day, and I offer it up for Your honor and glory. I thank You for the opportunity to learn and to teach. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Call all of your students at least one week before class starts to introduce yourself and to remind them of the class meeting date and your classroom location. You will also want to ask your students to bring a Bible. Ask your students to arrive early this first time so that they can find the classroom.

Preparation - Read through your lesson carefully as there are several items that need preparation ahead of time.

Classroom preparation - Arrive 20-30 minutes early. Prepare your prayer center with a green cloth (for Ordinary Time), Bible, candles, and a crucifix or picture of Jesus. Write your name on the board, and introduce yourself.

MATERIALS NEEDED

PROVIDED:

supply box
memory verse sheets
holy cards
name tags
Liturgical Calendar—Cycle C
colored paper
posterboard

FROM HOME:

classroom decorations
prayer center items (see above)
Bible
bingo markers
calendar

Nihil Obstat: Rev. Michael Byron
Censor Librorum

Imprimatur: † Most Rev. Harry J. Flynn
Archbishop of St. Paul and Minneapolis
January 23, 2007

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MISSION:

Family Formation is designed to help parents respond to the Church's call to be "*the first and foremost educators of their children.*"* It is our purpose to aid families as they grow in their love and knowledge of the Catholic faith.

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Scripture quotations are from the Saint Joseph Edition of the New American Bible unless otherwise noted.

*Gravissimum Educationis, 3

WHAT GOES AROUND COMES AROUND

(OVERVIEW OF DOCTRINE AND THE LITURGICAL CYCLE)

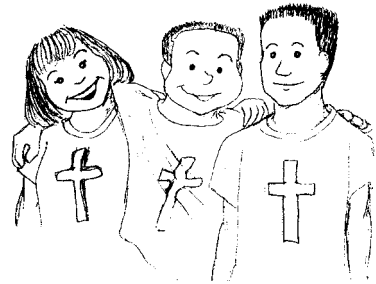
Catechist Lesson Plan—October, Cycle C

Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Grades

WELCOME/ATTENDANCE

10 Minutes

- Welcome students as they arrive.
- Give each a name tag.
- Introduce yourself
- Ask them to draw a picture on their name tags that reminds them of a party they enjoyed recently.
- Listen to each recite the memory verse they were asked to memorize over the summer. (See back cover of this lesson.) Give those who know their memory verse a holy card.



PRAYER

5 Minutes



Gather the students into a circle near your prayer center. Tell them that this is how you will begin your class each month and that today's prayer is to thank God for all of us in this classroom. God chose each of them to be together for a reason, so begin by thanking Him for bringing you all together. Begin with the Sign of the Cross. Pray a simple prayer thanking God for these students, and ask His blessings as you begin a new year of *Family Formation*. Ask each student to thank God for something at this point. End the prayer by reading God's promise in Psalm 32:8: "*I will instruct you and show you the way you should walk, give you counsel and watch over you.*"

ATTENDANCE

5 Minutes

- Help the students begin to get to know one other by playing the birthday game. Beginning with October, have the students arrange themselves in order, by their birth dates.
- Take attendance once they are all in order.
- On your attendance sheets, record the number of W.O.G. minutes the students have accumulated over the summer. Collect the W.O.G. logs, and attach to attendance sheets. Please make sure each child's name is clearly printed on his or her form.



SET THE TONE

5 Minutes

Set the rules by telling the students what is expected this year in *Family Formation*. Give them an idea of what will be happening each month in your class: prayer time, Catholic Academy, memorization of prayers and Scripture, etc.

Ask what they expect to learn, how they will learn it, and how they will act in class. Write their ideas on a poster board. Bring the list to class each month, and hang it up so the students can always see it. If there is a behavior or discipline problem, refer to the list.

LESSON

45 Minutes

(Be sure to pace your teaching so you arrive at Catholic Academy on time.)

SHOW A CALENDAR:

This calendar is called the solar calendar because it keeps track of the earth's yearly trip around the sun. You probably have at least one of these calendars in your home, and your parents write in special things that happen in your families.



What are some of the events on your calendar? (birthdays, anniversaries, vacations, dentist appointments, etc.)

How many weeks are there in a year? (52)

When does the new calendar year start? (January 1)

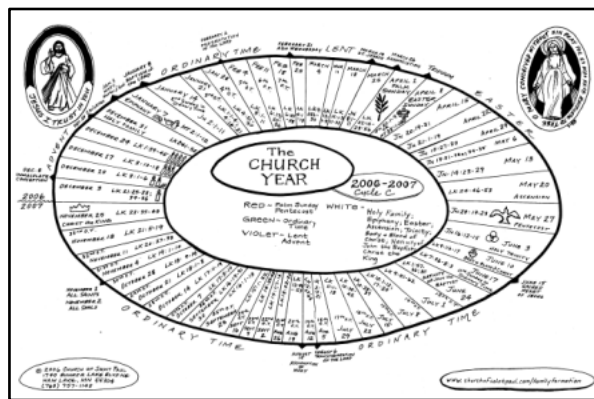
SHOW THE LITURGICAL CALENDAR:

The Church has a calendar, too. It is called the liturgical calendar. We use it to mark the special celebrations and seasons in the life of the Church.

Who knows what *Liturgical* means? (See box at right.)

This calendar keeps track of the 12 months of living in the light of the SON of God: our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Through the celebration and seasons of the Church year, Jesus breaks through time and enters our lives.

Liturgy (LIH-ter-gee): The public worship of the Church including the rites and ceremonies of the Mass and sacraments.



**P
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A
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E**

Prepare, ahead of time, the "Holy Days, Feasts, and Seasons Cards" as follows:

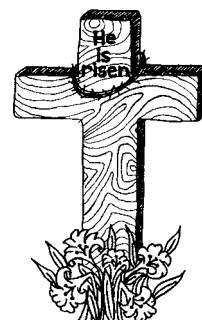
1. Cut apart the 24 cards.
2. Attach each card to a 1/4-sized sheet of paper that is the corresponding liturgical color:
 - Green:** Ordinary Time (Note: There are two Ordinary Time cards.)
 - Red:** Pentecost, Good Friday, Palm Sunday
 - Violet/Purple:** Ash Wednesday, Lent, Advent
 - White:** Christmas, Mary Mother of God, Epiphany, Saint Joseph, Holy Thursday, Easter Vigil, Easter, Ascension, Corpus Christi, Trinity Sunday, Assumption, All Saints' Day, Immaculate Conception, Christ the King
 - Purple, White, and Red:** Holy Week (See diagram on Page 5.)
 - White and Red:** Triduum (See diagram on Page 5.)
3. PRACTICE, ahead of time, using these cards as you tell the story.

Ask your students to name as many seasons and celebrations in the liturgical year as they can. As they do, tape up each prepared card where everyone can see them, in no particular order. Make sure all 24 cards are posted before you begin the next part of the activity.

TELL THE STORY BELOW:

(Feel free to use your own words, and arrange the cards in order as each one is mentioned.)

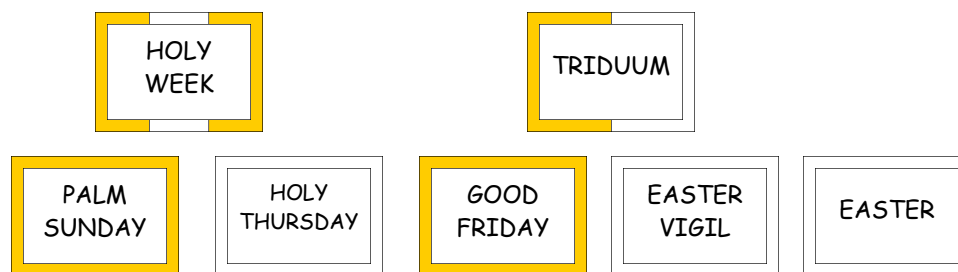
In the very early Church, new Christians gathered together on Sundays to celebrate their salvation and their love for Jesus. They celebrated on Sunday because Jesus rose from the dead on this day.



ASK: What do we call that Resurrection day? (Tape the Easter card near the middle of your board.)

These new Christians would meet in homes to celebrate and remember the teachings of Jesus. The apostles would teach the others what Jesus had taught them. They would sing and praise God with enthusiasm. All of the sayings and activities of Jesus were part of their instruction, and those early Masses used the same basic order as today's Masses. (See CCC 1345.) Sometime at the end of the first century, one of the Sundays became a special yearly Easter feast day.

This feast became the point that started the people thinking about the other important times of Jesus' life and, gradually, Ash Wednesday and Lent were added to prepare the faithful for the celebration of Easter and Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil. (Tape the Holy Week and Triduum cards up as shown below.)

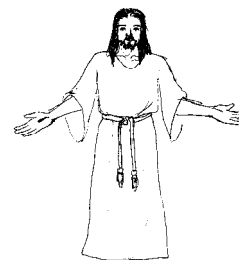


(Continue posting each card as you read its title in the story.)

Later, Christians decided they should be celebrating the beginning of Christ's life with a special feast.

? Do you know what we call that feast? (Christmas)
What is the preparation time before Christmas called? (Advent)

The Church year begins with Advent, and the Gospel readings tell us about the coming of John the Baptist. During the Christmas season, there are many celebrations including the oldest Marian feast which celebrates Mary as the Mother of God, and Epiphany. Then, we enter into a few weeks of Ordinary Time. The Gospels from the first Sundays of Ordinary Time tell about the beginnings of Jesus' ministry, His first preaching and healing, and the calling of the first disciples.



Calling these days *Ordinary Time* started in the Church in 1969. Before that, the Sundays between the Advent/Christmas season and Lent were called "Sundays after Epiphany." Those that fell between Pentecost and Advent were called "Sundays after Pentecost." These Sundays are now called "Ordinary" because they are not extraordinary. Each Sunday is to be celebrated as a "little Easter" and reminds us of the way we are to live our ordinary Christian life.

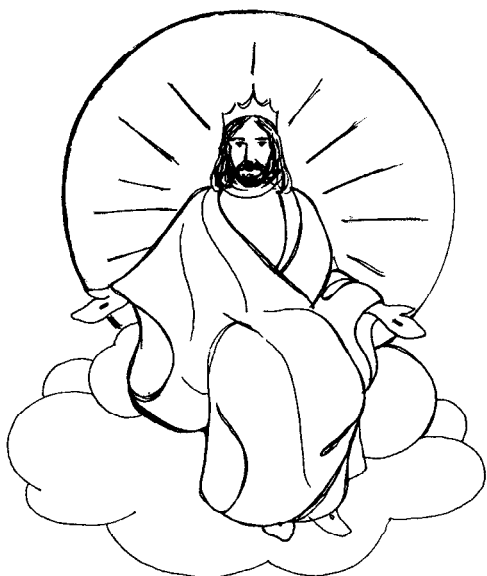
? What does it mean to live an ordinary Christian life? (Go to Mass, receive Communion, go to Reconciliation, pray, love our neighbor, give to the poor, etc.)
Being an ordinary Christian means we are to be different than people who do not know God. It is important for you to be an ordinary Christian. You can read the New Testament to find out what it means to become an ordinary Christian. When the Gospel and second Scripture reading are read at Mass, we need to listen carefully so that we HEAR the message and learn from it.

During the Easter season, we remember Christ's Ascension into heaven on the sixth week of Easter on Thursday or the following Sunday. (Your bishop decides which.)

The Easter season ends with Pentecost and Jesus' sending of the Holy Spirit to His followers. Ordinary Time after Easter begins again with

important feasts of the Lord - the Solemnity of the Trinity and the Feast of Corpus Christi. The Gospels during Ordinary Time focus on Jesus' teaching, healing, and preparing His disciples to follow Him.

<p>Solemnity (so-LEHM-nih-tee) The days of the greatest importance in the liturgical year.</p>



On August 15, Catholics go to Mass to celebrate the Assumption - the ancient Tradition teaching that the Blessed Virgin Mary was taken up to heaven, body and soul, at the end of her earthly life.

As we approach the end of the Church year, on All Saints' Day, we remember all the holy men and women who have gone before us into heaven. The feast of the Immaculate Conception reminds us that the Blessed Virgin Mary lived her entire life without sin, and on the very last Sunday of the Church year, we remember that Christ is the King of all heaven and earth!

You've probably noticed by now that Catholics LOVE to celebrate! And our calendar year is FULL of Sundays to joyously remember all the wonderful ways God has shown His love and care for us!

But it gets even better! Not only are there Sunday reasons to celebrate, but **every day** of the year is the feast day of some holy man or woman who has lived his or her life for God in an extraordinary way. These people are called saints, and when the Church officially recognized each of their holy lives, they were each assigned an official feast day to be celebrated. There are THOUSANDS of saint feast days, and Saint Joseph's on March 19 is just one example. Isn't it just like God to give us such overflowing goodness!

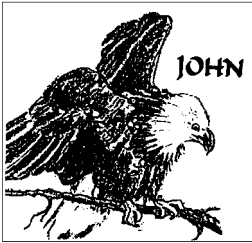
The Church calendar is divided into three years: Year A, Year B, and Year C. The Gospel readings for each year are from a different Gospel writer. In Year A, we read about Jesus' life mostly from Saint Matthew's Gospel.

SWORD DRILL

Who can find the book of Matthew in their Bible?

In Year B, Saint Mark is the principal writer. In Year C, we most often read from the book of Saint Luke.

Throughout the year, your students will have opportunities to practice Sword Drills. This refers to Ephesians 6:17 which tells us that the sword of the Spirit is the Word of God. As you announce "Sword Drill," your students should open their Bibles and prepare to search for the verse or book you name. Have students raise their hands when they've found it. As you repeat this activity, students will get a good grasp of finding their way around the Bible.



Saint John's Gospel is read throughout each of the three years. Because Saint John writes about the divinity of Jesus, his Gospel is read at Easter and Christmas. And because Saint Mark's Gospel is short, Saint John's Gospel fills out Saint Mark's year.

Right now, we are in Year C and will begin Year A on the First Sunday in Advent.



What Gospel are we reading now? (Luke)

When we get to Year A in November, what Gospel will we read most often? (Matthew)

PROJECT

Play "The Church Bingo Game."
(Refer to the instructions provided with the Bingo cards.)

ADVENT	ASH WEDNESDAY	ASCENSION	GOOD FRIDAY	LENT
BAPTISM	MARY, MOTHER OF GOD	EASTER VEIL	SACRIFICE OF JOSEPH	EPHAPHAN
GOODSUNDAY TIME	PALM SUNDAY	FREE	HOLY WEEK	ASSUMPTION OF MARY
ALL SAINTS	EASTER SUNDAY	CONFESSIO CHRISTI	TRINITY SUNDAY	CHRIST THE KING
HOLY Thursday	PENTECOST	BARBARICATE TRANSFORMATION	CHRISTMAS	TRODOR

PRAYER

5 Minutes

- Gather the students into a circle. Begin the prayer thanking God for something you learned today. Let each of them take a turn doing the same.

- End with the Hail Mary. (October is the month when we especially honor her as our mother.)
- Give each of the students a memory verse sheet. Have them recite the verse together. Tell them that next month there will be a small reward for each person who knows the verse.

INSTRUCTIONS/CLEAN-UP

5 Minutes

Put your supplies away, and return your room to its original condition. Give your students the opportunity to help, if possible.

CATHOLIC ACADEMY

(Out-of-parish users may choose to omit this section. Simply continue with the lesson.)

20 Minutes

Students will join their parents in the main meeting space for Catholic Academy this month. Instruct your students to line up at the pre-appointed time, and help them to find their parents.



W.O.G. LOGS

Encourage your students to read God's Word each day, and keep track of their W.O.G. (Word Of God) minutes on the cards provided. Be sure to let them know that even a small amount of time in God's Word, each day, will help them grow in their faith!

TRAVEL HOME TRIVIA

Students Ask Parents: What color vestments will our priest wear on Sunday? (green) What other colors does he wear during the year? (white, red, purple)

Parents Ask Students: Whose Gospel is mainly read during cycle A? (Matthew) Whose Gospel is read during cycle B? (Mark) Cycle C? (Luke)



MONDAY

Welcome/Attendance
6:50-7:05
Catholic Academy
8:20
Dismissal
8:40



SATURDAY

Welcome/Attendance
9:20-9:35
Catholic Academy
10:50
Dismissal
11:10

MATERIALS TO SEND HOME

memory verse

Summer Memory Verse

(to be memorized over the summer and recited at this month's class)

THE SEVEN SACRAMENTS

Baptism

Confirmation

Holy Eucharist

Reconciliation

Matrimony

Holy Orders

Anointing of the Sick

October Memory Verse

Kindergarten - 6th Grade

(to be memorized and recited at next month's class)

*"Lord, Jesus Christ,
Son of the living God,
have mercy on me,
a sinner."*

based on Luke 18:13

ADVENT

During this first season
of the Church year,
we prepare for
the birth of Jesus.

1

CHRISTMAS

Christmas is a
holy day of obligation,
and all Catholics attend Mass
in celebration of
the birth of Jesus!

2

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

On January 1, we attend Mass
in celebration of this holy day
of obligation which reminds us
of Mary's part
in God's great plan of salvation.

3

EPIPHANY

The three Wise Men
brought gifts
to the newborn Messiah.

4

ORDINARY TIME

During this time,
we continue our ordinary growth
as Christians!

5

ASH WEDNESDAY

At this beginning of Lent,
the Sign of the Cross
is traced upon our forehead
with ashes.

6

LENT

During Lent, we increase our
fasting, prayer, and almsgiving
to help prepare our hearts
for Easter.

7

FEAST OF SAINT JOSEPH

We celebrate the lives of each saint
on a specific day each year.
Jesus' earthly father is
especially remembered
on March 19.

8

PALM SUNDAY

This celebration reminds us of when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, and the people welcomed Him by shouting, "Hosanna!"

9

HOLY WEEK

During this week before Easter, we remember the events of the last week of Jesus' life on earth.

10

TRIDUUM

These three days begin with Mass on Holy Thursday and go through the Church's evening prayers on Easter Sunday.

11

HOLY THURSDAY

Jesus celebrates the Last Supper with His apostles.

12

GOOD FRIDAY

Good Friday
is the day on which
we remember
the death of Jesus.

13

EASTER VIGIL

At this Mass,
new Catholics receive
the sacraments of Baptism,
Confirmation and Holy Eucharist
for the first time.

14

EASTER

On this most holy day
of the Church year,
we celebrate
the Resurrection of Christ!

15

ASCENSION

Forty days after Easter,
Jesus goes back up to heaven.
Catholics celebrate this great event
at Mass on Ascension Thursday
or the following Sunday.

16

PENTECOST

Fifty days after Easter,
we celebrate when the Holy Spirit
descended upon the disciples
gathered in the upper room.

17

TRINITY SUNDAY

On the Sunday after Pentecost,
this feast celebrates
the great mystery
of the Three Persons
(Father, Son, and Holy Spirit)
as one God.

18

CORPUS CHRISTI

Celebrated on the Sunday
after Trinity Sunday,
this feast honors
Jesus' Real Presence
in the Blessed Sacrament.

19

ORDINARY TIME

During this time,
we continue our ordinary growth
as Christians!

20

ASSUMPTION

On August 15, we celebrate the Blessed Virgin Mary being taken up into heaven, body and soul, at the end of her earthly life. This day is a holy day of obligation, and all Catholics attend Mass as we remember God's great plan of salvation!

21

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY

December 8
is a holy day of obligation
when all Catholics attend Mass
to celebrate
the very beginning of the life
of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

23

ALL SAINTS' DAY

All Saints' Day is
a holy day of obligation,
and all Catholics attend Mass
on November 1 in honor of all
the holy men and women who have gone
before us to heaven. Glory to God for
these great examples
of holiness to inspire us!

22

CHRIST THE KING

This last Sunday
of the Church year
is a celebration
of Christ as the King
of all heaven and earth!

24

Church Year Bingo

AIM: Help students become more familiar with the feasts and seasons of the liturgical year.

MATERIALS NEEDED: Bingo markers (see below), Bingo cards (provided) prizes (optional), "Holy Days, Feasts, and Seasons" cards from the lesson

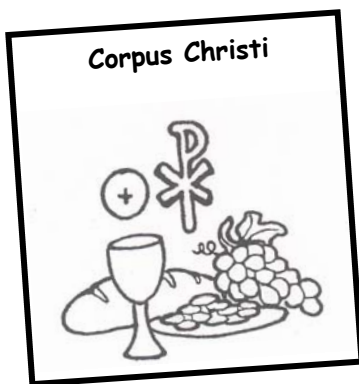
INSTRUCTIONS:

- Read each clue, and have the students cover up the answer on their game card with a marker. As the students locate each celebration on their game cards, have them cover the squares with pennies, beans, or M & M's. (If you use M & M's, your students can eat them after the game.) You could have your students use the correct liturgically-colored square of paper for markers. Be sure to have a good supply of paper squares on hand (white, violet/purple, red, and green).
- The first student to get five in a row (across, up and down, or diagonally), yells "Bingo!" Check to see that the answers are correct. If so, that child is declared the winner and could receive a small prize.
- When a student has Bingo, you could have them tell about one of the celebrations in their BINGO. They should be able to tell you that Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent, or that the Easter Vigil takes place on the evening of Holy Saturday, for example.
- Plan Ahead—If your students have fun with this game, save the cards for use at another *Family Formation* meeting when you have a little extra time.

CLUES: (Feel free to make up more of your own!)

- + On this day, the priest traces the Sign of the Cross on our foreheads with ashes. (Ash Wednesday)
- + At this celebration, new members are welcomed into our community and receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and their first Eucharist. (Easter Vigil)
- + This is the time of year we prepare for the coming of Jesus. (Advent)
- + We come together to celebrate Mass in honor of all the holy men and women who have gone to heaven before us. (All Saints' Day)
- + This is the day Jesus celebrated the Last Supper. (Holy Thursday)
- + This is the day we celebrate the coming of Jesus. (Christmas)
- + We celebrate on this day the special way Mary was conceived. (Feast of the Immaculate Conception)
- + Jesus rose from the dead on this day. (Easter)


- + The season when we repent, fast, and give things up. (Lent)
- + The time when we act like ordinary Christians. (Ordinary Time)
- + The name of the stepfather of Jesus. (Joseph)
- + This is the celebration of the day when Mary was taken up into heaven. (Assumption of Mary)
- + This is when we become members of the family of God. (Baptism)
- + The day Jesus died. (Good Friday)
- + The day Jesus ascended into Heaven. (Ascension)
- + When the Wise Men gave gifts to Baby Jesus. (Epiphany)
- + This is when Jesus rode into town on a donkey, and people waved palms. (Palm Sunday)
- + This is the week before Easter. (Holy Week)
- + This is a feast day to honor the Blessed Sacrament. (The feast of Corpus Christi)
- + This is when the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples. (Pentecost)
- + This is the last Sunday of the liturgical Church year. (Christ the King)
- + This Sunday celebrates the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (Trinity Sunday)
- + This is the name given to the three days which come just before Easter: Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. (Triduum)
- + On January 1, Catholics go to Mass in celebration of Mary's part in God's great plan of salvation. (Mary, Mother of God)



Bingo!

CHURCH YEAR BINGO!

CARD 1

 <p>Advent</p>	 <p>Ash Wednesday</p>	<p>ASCENSION</p> 	 <p>Good Friday</p>	<p>LENT</p> 
<p>Baptism</p> 	<p>MARY Mother of God</p> 	<p>EASTER VIGIL</p> 	<p>SAINTE JOSEPH</p> 	<p>Epiphany</p> 
<p>ORDINARY TIME</p> 	<p>PALM Sunday</p> 	<p>FREE</p>	<p>Holy Week</p> 	<p>ASSUMPTION OF MARY</p> 
<p>ALL SAINTS</p> 	<p>EASTER SUNDAY</p> 	<p>Corpus Christi</p> 	<p>TRINITY Sunday</p> 	<p>CHRIST the KING</p> 
<p>HOLY THURSDAY</p> 	<p>Pentecost</p> 	<p>IMMACULATE CONCEPTION</p> 	<p>Christmas</p> 	<p>TRIDUUM</p> 