

RCIA

RCIA HO Class 12 Advent the Liturgical Year handout

Advent Begins the first Sunday in December (more or less) and lasts 4 weeks (more or less). It is the season of preparation to celebrate the Lord's birth at Christmas.

Christmas December 25. The feast day of the Lord's birth.

Epiphany 12 Days after Christmas (January 6). The celebration of the Three King's (magi) visit to worship the new-born Lord.

Ordinary Time (From the Epiphany to the beginning of Lent)

Lent Begins on the Sunday after Ash Wednesday and lasts 40 days (more or less). The season of preparation to celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord on Easter Sunday.

The Triduum = Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, (Easter Sunday). The last three days of Lent which commemorate the Lord's Passion (suffering), death, and Resurrection.

Easter Season 40 days of celebration of the Resurrection.

Ascension Thursday 40 days after Easter Sunday. The commemoration of the Lord's ascension into heaven body and soul.

Pentecost 9 days after Ascension Thursday. The commemoration of the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles.

Ordinary Time (Time after Pentecost) From Pentecost until the return of Advent. In summary, the liturgical year is a returning cycle: **Advent**---Christmas---Ordinary Time---Lent---Easter---Ordinary Time---

Advent

Advent is to Christmas what **Lent** is to Easter; a time of preparation for the feasts.

During Advent the Gloria is not said or sung during Mass because it is the song of the Angels at Christmas (see Luke 2:14).

Violet vestments are worn to symbolize penance because Advent is a penitential season (similar to Lent) during which we prepare for the "coming" of Christ (the word Advent means "coming").

Rose-colored vestments may be worn on the third Sunday of Advent. Rose symbolizes the color of the sky at dawn when the darkness is almost gone, but the white light of full day has not yet arrived.

If Christ is the "light" coming into the world, near the end of Advent the "darkness" of the world without Christ is almost gone, but He has not yet fully arrived to "enlighten" the world.

During the Christmas season white vestments are worn at Mass to symbolize that light.

The same is true of Lent. Violet is worn for the six weeks of lent to symbolize penance, and white is worn during the Easter season to symbolize the glory of the Resurrection.

Green (symbolizing life) is worn in Ordinary time. Red is worn for the feasts of martyrs (the color of blood), and for the feasts of the Holy Spirit (the color of fire).

Black, violet or white is worn for funerals. Black symbolizes the sadness of death. Violet symbolizes the penance that we do on behalf of the dead.

White recalls our baptism and the hope of the resurrection of the dead. White is worn for weddings and for feasts of the Lord and the saints.

Gold is considered a "super" white and may be worn in place of white.

The purpose of the Liturgical Year is to help us remember the Mysteries of the Life of the Lord and to live through them with Him and His Church.

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RCIA WKSH Class 12 Advent, Last things (BCL#13-14)

- 1) How long is the Season of Advent?
- 2) What is the purpose of the Season of Advent?
- 3) Name two customary changes to the Mass that take place at the beginning of Advent.
- 4) What is our definition of Heaven?
- 5) When do we begin to be in heaven? (Be very careful!!)
- 6) How do we get to Heaven?
- 7) What is the only thing that we keep us out of Heaven?
- 8) What is the definition of Hell? (Be exact)
- 9) Why does God send people to Hell? (Be very careful)
- 10) How would I get to Hell if I wanted to go there?
- 11) What is the definition of Purgatory?
- 12) When does the Church pray for All Souls in Purgatory? (Two answers).