

Young Apprentices

A RESOURCE FOR THE OCIA

INQUIRY SESSION: LITURGICAL YEAR



My Story

Your days and weeks often have a regular pattern or routine to them. On Monday through Friday you go to school and then have the weekend days to relax. Perhaps on Sunday you go to church. You enjoy a couple of summer months for time off and vacation.



AND THINK

- *How does having a regular pattern or routine to your days and weeks help you?*
- *What do you most like about the summer months?*



God's Story

The days and weeks of the Church calendar keep Sunday as the high point and the first day of the week. Catholics gather for Mass on Sunday to start the week.

The weeks of an ordinary calendar are organized into months. The weeks of the Church, or liturgical, year calendar are organized into seasons. These seasons each have a special focus: Advent recalls Christ's coming in history and his coming at the end of time; Christmas marks the birth of Christ in history and in our hearts; Lent prepares those who will be baptized at Easter and invites the baptized to turn back to God through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving; and Easter celebrates the Resurrection of the Lord.

All other weeks of the Church, or liturgical, year make up the season of Ordinary Time. During Ordinary Time we hear about the life of Jesus, his ministry, and his teachings.



Our Response

Look at a Church, or liturgical, year calendar.



- *What liturgical year season is the Church in right now?*
- *What is the next liturgical year season the Church will celebrate?*
- *What kinds of things are on a liturgical year calendar?*

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Sharing God's Word

With your family, read one or more of the Scriptures listed below. Share what each passage says about **worship** or the **importance of Sunday**.

Deuteronomy 16:16-17

(Feast of Booths)

Acts 20:7

(Eutychus Restored to Life)

John 20:1

(The Empty Tomb)

The above readings are available at usccb.org/bible/readings.

Faith Words

liturgical year

The liturgical year is the year of the Lord's grace celebrating the mysteries of Jesus' life. It includes weekly Sunday celebrations and special feasts of the Lord, of Mary, and of the saints. The liturgical year, also known as the Church year, is celebrated in seasons. The names of the seasons are Advent, Christmas, Lent, Triduum, Easter, and Ordinary Time.

Witness of Faith



Pope Gregory XIII (1502–1585)

Pope Gregory XIII is best known for making changes to the Julian calendar, which was the name of the calendar used in his time. The Julian calendar had 365 days and 6 hours in each year, meaning that it gained a day every four years. This threw off the celebration of Easter during the spring season. The new calendar, named the Gregorian calendar, took care of the 6 extra hours by including a leap year, or extra day, every four years. One of the main reasons for the change in calendars was so that Easter would be celebrated in spring. To get off to a good start, the first year the Gregorian calendar was used it had to skip ten days. It jumped from October 4, 1582, to October 15, 1582!