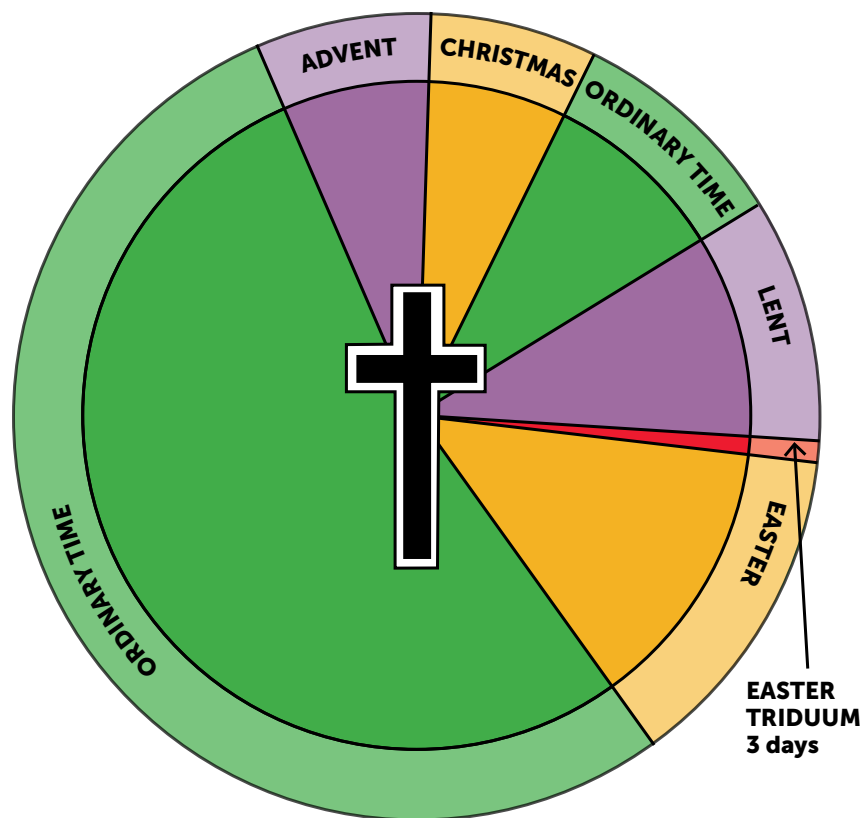


New Church Year

INTRODUCTION

At the beginning of the new Church year, gather the children and youth in the place where your liturgical year calendar will be displayed. You will need a Bible for the Scripture reading, the new liturgical year calendar, and push pins, tape, or a means to display the calendar. You may also wish to provide smaller copies of the new liturgical year calendar for each student, to be used as a take-home resource for families. A free, downloadable liturgical year calendar is available at RCLBLectionary.com.

Serve as the leader of the prayer, and invite a student (or parent or helper) to proclaim the Scripture reading.



INTRODUCTORY RITES

Gathering Song Suggestions:

1. Any setting of Psalm 118
(This is the day that the Lord has made.)
2. "Now is the Time" (T. Kendzia/OCP Publications)
3. "Now" (R. Cooney/GIA Publications)
4. "Soon and Very Soon" (Andraé Crouch/
Andraé Crouch Music/Bud John Songs)

Sign of the Cross: *(All)*

Collect *(Presider):*

Let us pray.

God of all time,
today we begin *(on December 2 we began)* a new Church year.

It will be a year full of grace and celebration.

Help us to celebrate it well
in our prayer and in our living.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture Reading Suggestions:

1. Genesis 1: 14-18
(Let there be lights to mark the fixed times, the days and the years.)
2. Ecclesiastes 3: 1-11
(There is a time for everything under the heavens.)

Reflection:

1. Invite the children and youth to share their favorite time:
 - of day
 - of the year
 - of the Church year
2. Invite volunteers to explain their choices.
3. Share your choice, too.

A Litany of Time Response:

Our time is in your hands.

1. As we celebrate the new Church year, with its seasons and feasts,
help us remember -
2. As we watch the news and hear about what is happening in the world,
help us remember -
3. As we think about our lives, our families, and our future,
help us remember -
4. When we get up in the morning, and go into the day,
help us remember -
5. When day comes to an end, and nighttime comes,
help us remember -
6. When we look at the sun, the moon, and the stars in the sky,
help us remember -
7. When we put on a watch, look at a clock, or check to see what time it is,
help us remember -

POSTING THE NEW CHURCH YEAR CALENDAR

Invite one or more students to hang the new Church year calendar. If you have purchased or made Church year calendars for each family, distribute the calendars at this time.

Prayer: God of all time,
may this calendar remind us
that every day and every season
are created by you.

May this calendar invite us
to celebrate the feasts and seasons
of the new Church year
with color, story, symbol, and song.

As we celebrate the new Church year,
open our minds and our hearts
to learn more about you,
about your Son, Jesus,
and about Mary our Mother
and all the Saints
who walked in your way.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

CONCLUDING RITES

Blessing: *Make the sign of the cross as you say the following:*

Now may almighty God bless the days of the new Church year,
and each one of us gathered here today,
with peace.
Amen.

Concluding Song: *(See suggestions for the Gathering Song)*