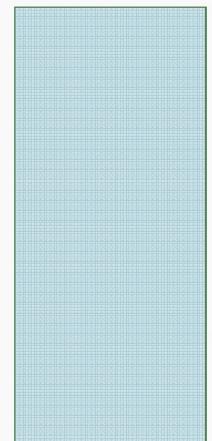


THE LITURGICAL YEAR,
THE LECTIONARY, AND
THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS

SEGMENT 17



OPENING PRAYER

- Generous Father, thank you! You are great and abundant in power; your understanding is beyond measure. Let me follow the example of Jesus who, as he grew up, increased in wisdom and in stature. Help me to use my time wisely as I study, that I, too, may grow in wisdom. Please help me to glorify you in my thoughts, words and actions. Blessing and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving, honor and power and strength, be unto you my God, for ever and ever. Amen

WHAT WE'LL COVER:

- What is the Liturgical Year (Calendar)?
 - Most important parts of the Liturgical Calendar
 - Time, Seasons, Colors
 - Holy Days of Obligation
- What is the Lectionary?
 - Readings
 - Sunday and Weekday Cycles
- What is the Liturgy of the Hours (Divine Office)?
 - Meaning
 - Special Prayers

LITURGICAL YEAR

- Annual cycle of Jesus's birth, life, death and resurrection ... His ministry on earth...
- Arranged in historical sequence so that we can understand and relive those saving mysteries in a prayerful way
- By observing the Liturgical calendar, the Church *makes time, itself, holy.*

LITURGICAL YEAR

- Begins on the *First Sunday of Advent* – Dec 3, 2023
- The Liturgical Year is divided into 2 major Seasons:
 - **Advent/Christmas**
 - **Lent/Easter/Pentacost**
- The ***Christmas season begins with Advent*** – time of preparation and anticipation for the Messiah's coming
 - Always 4 Sundays
- Christmas celebrates the Incarnation of God (Word made Flesh) through the birth of Jesus Christ.
- Followed by 4 other feasts:
 - Feast of the Holy Family, Feast of Mary, the Mother of God, Feast of the Epiphany and the Feast of the Baptism of Jesus
 - Octave of Christmas; Twelve Days

LITURGICAL YEAR

- **Ordinary Time** is between Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter/Pentacost
 - Not “ordinary” at all
 - From the Latin word *ordinalis* or *ordo* – where we get the English word “order”
 - The numbered weeks of Ordinary time represent the ordered life of the Church.
 - Between Feasting and Penance – time of conversion, growth and maturation – we wait in watchfulness and expectation of the 2nd Coming of Christ.

LITURGICAL YEAR

- The ***Easter Season begins on Ash Wednesday with Lent*** – time of spiritual renewal, fasting and almsgiving.
 - Lent lasts for 40 days, not counting Sundays – leading to Easter
- The ***central event of the Liturgical Year is the Easter Triduum*** – the 3 days: *Holy Thursday evening, Good Friday and Holy Saturday, through the Easter Vigil* – leads us through the events of our salvation in the Passion, Death and Resurrection of our Lord.
- For Catechumens, Lent is the time of spiritual preparation in anticipation of the Sacraments of Initiation.

LITURGICAL YEAR

- Octave of Easter - 2nd Sunday of Easter – Low Sunday, **Divine Mercy Sunday**
- Easter Season begins with the Easter Vigil and continues for **50 days** – 40 days until the **Ascension** of Jesus, and then 10 more days until **Pentacost**, the Descent of the Holy Spirit.
- After Pentecost, Ordinary time resumes and concludes with the **Solemnity of Christ the King**, the ***last Sunday*** of the liturgical year.

COLORS IN THE LITURGICAL YEAR

- **Green**: used during **Ordinary time**.
- **Purple or violet**: used **during Advent and Lent**, and along with white and black, these colors may also be used at Funeral Masses.
- **White and gold**: most appropriate for **Christmas** and **Easter**.
- **Red**: for **Feasts of the Passion of Jesus (Palm Sunday)** and for the **Holy Spirit (Pentacost)**, representing red tongues of fire, in addition to being worn for the **Feasts of martyred Saints**, who shed their red blood for Christ.
- **Rose**: on the **Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday – “Joyful”)** and the **Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday – latin “Rejoice”)**; worn as a *sign of anticipated joy*.

8 HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

- **Mary, Mother of God** (always celebrated **January 1**, but if this occurs on a Saturday or a Monday there is no obligation to go to Mass)
- **Epiphany** (January 6, but has been permanently translated to the **first Sunday after January 1**)
- **Ascension** (varies; a few areas celebrate it on the traditional date, which is the **Thursday of the sixth week of Easter**, but most of the U.S. has translated it to the **seventh Sunday of Easter**.)
- **The Body and Blood of Christ** (this has been permanently translated to the **second Sunday after Pentecost**)
- **Assumption of Mary** (always celebrated **August 15**, but if this occurs on a Saturday or Monday, no obligation to go to Mass)
- **All Saints** (always celebrated **November 1**, but if this occurs on a Saturday or Monday, no obligation to go to Mass)
- **Immaculate Conception of Mary** (always celebrated **December 8**, but if this occurs on a Saturday or Monday, no obligation to go to Mass)
- **Christmas** (always celebrated **December 25**)

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

All Sundays are Obligations

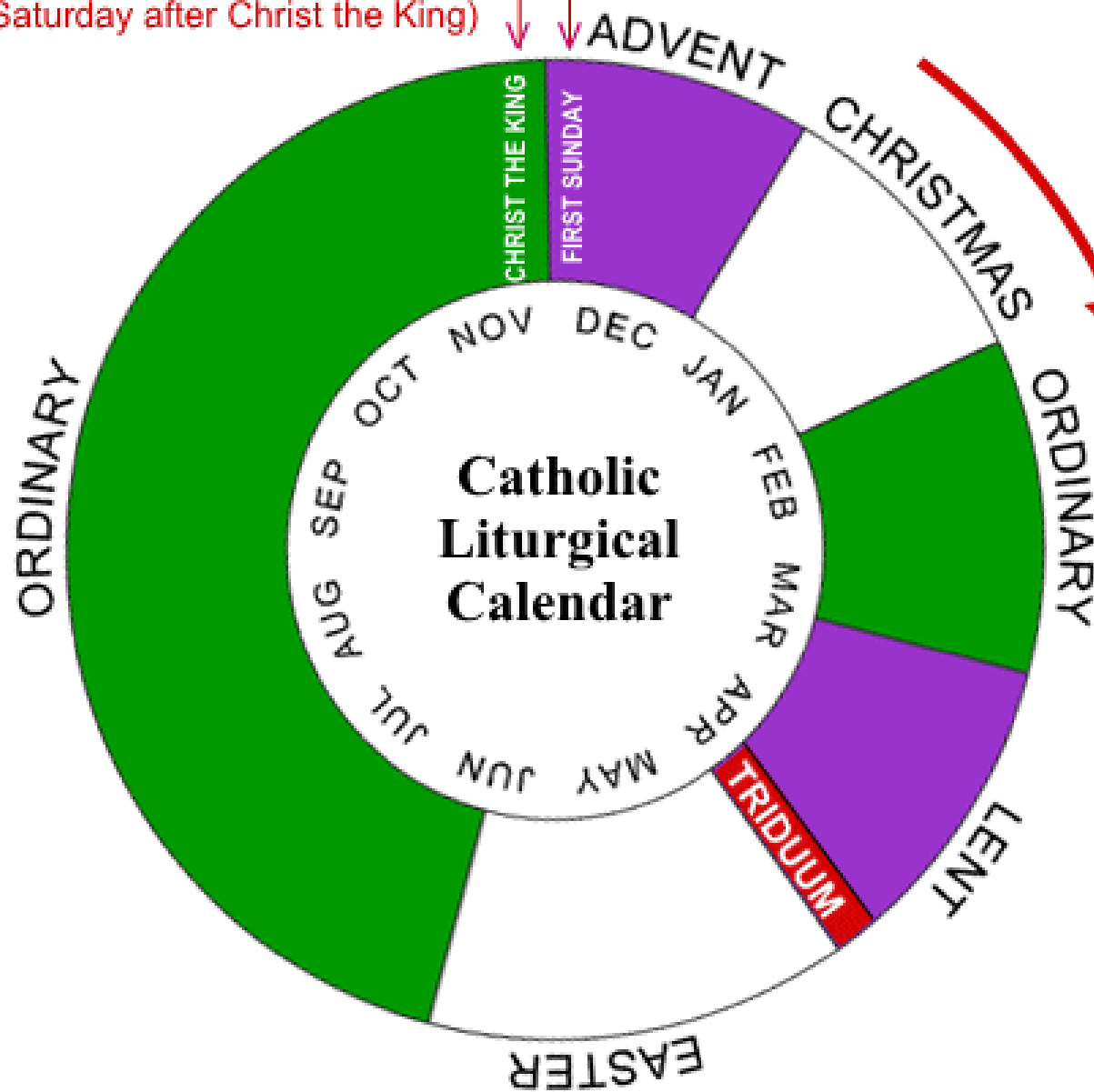
Holy Days Of Obligation 2024

January 1, 2024	Monday**	Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
May 9, 2024	Thursday	Ascension of Jesus
August 15, 2024	Thursday	Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
November 1, 2024	Friday	All Saints' Day
December 9, 2024	Monday**	The Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary
December 25, 2024	Wednesday	Christmas

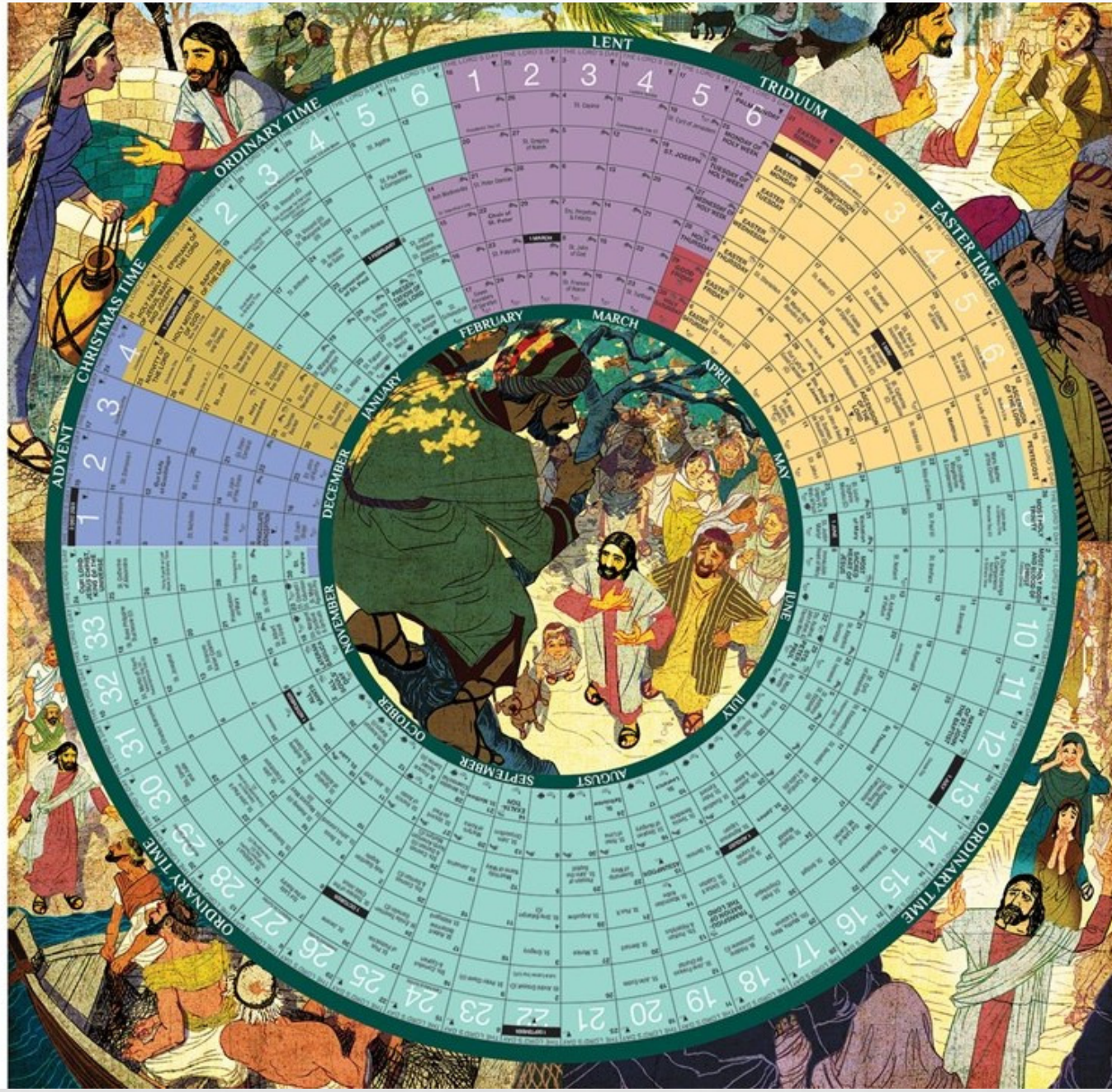
**When a feast falls on either a Monday or a Saturday the obligation is removed.

The Liturgical Year ends with the
Last Saturday of Ordinary Time
(Saturday after Christ the King)

The Liturgical Year begins on the
First Sunday of Advent



The Year of Grace 2024



THE LECTIONARY

- The book containing the selections of readings from the Bible, read during a Mass
 - 1-2 readings (from Old and New Testaments) and always 1 Gospel reading
 - Also includes a Psalm or Canticle
 - The Lectionary provides readings for Saints' Feast Days, for common celebrations such as Marian (Mary) feasts, for ritual Masses (weddings, funerals, etc.), other Votive Masses, etc.
- Goes hand-in-hand with the Liturgical Year

THE LECTIONARY

Arranged in Two Cycles – Sundays and Weekdays:

- **Sundays:**

- The Sunday cycle is divided into 3 years, labeled A, B, and C.
- **2024 is Year B.**
- In Year A, we read mostly from the Gospel of Matthew.
- In Year B, we read the Gospel of Mark and Chapter 6 of the Gospel of John.
- In Year C, we read the Gospel of Luke.
- The Gospel of John is read during the Easter season in all three years.
- The First reading - usually Old Testament - important themes from the Gospel reading. The Second reading - usually from one of the epistles (a letter written to an early church community).
 - These letters are read semi-continuously. Each Sunday, we pick up close to where we left off the Sunday before.

THE LECTIONARY

- **Weekdays:**

- The weekday cycle is divided into 2 years (or Series), Year I and Year II.
- Year II is read in even-numbered years, so **2024 is Year II.**
- The Gospels for both years are the same.
- During the year, the Gospels are read semi-continuously, beginning with Mark, then moving on to Matthew and Luke.
- The Gospel of John is read during the Easter season.
- For Advent, Christmas, and Lent, readings are chosen that are appropriate to the season. The first reading on weekdays may be taken from the Old or the New Testament.
 - Typically, a single book is read semi-continuously, until it is finished, and then a new book is started.

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

- Also known as **“The Divine Office”** or **“Breviary”**
- Public and daily prayer of the entire Church that sanctifies (makes holy) the whole course of each day by praising God.
- **Hours of the Divine Office:**
 - Office of Readings
 - Morning Prayer
 - Daytime Prayer
 - Evening Prayer (vespers)
 - Night Prayer
- Some taken from the infancy narratives in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke:
 - Morning prayer includes the “Benedictus” (the prayer recited by John the Baptist’s father, Zechariah)
 - Evening prayer includes the “Magnificat” (which Mary recited when she visited her cousin Elizabeth)
 - Night prayer includes the “Nunc Dimittis” (Simeon’s prayer at the presentation of Jesus at the Temple).

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

- Ancient Jewish practice of reciting prayers at certain hours
- Saint Paul's letters to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thess. 5:17)
- Jesus's parable about the "necessity for them to pray always without becoming weary" (Luke 18:1).
- By the 200's early Christians were gathering for morning and evening prayer.

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

- A way to pray, if not “without ceasing,” then at least with “unceasing” consistency.
- Develop habit of persistence in prayer. Puts you in communion with the entire praying Church.
- ***“The ‘Liturgy of the Hours’ is the public prayer of the Church that flows from and leads to celebration of the Eucharist. Through our participation in the prayers of the day, each part of the day is made holy by the praise of God and the study of God’s Word.” (CCC1174-1178)***

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord God, whose name is holy and whose mercy is proclaimed in every generation, receive your people's prayer, and let them sing your greatness with never-ending praise.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.