

# ALIVE IN CHRIST

GRADE 2

Sacraments of Penance and Eucharist

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**Our Sunday Visitor**

# The Church Year

## Let Us Pray

**Leader:** Giving Father, we thank you every day  
for all that you give us.

“I will praise you, LORD, with all my heart;  
I will declare all your wondrous deeds.  
I will delight and rejoice in you;  
I will sing hymns to your name, Most  
High.” **Psalm 9:2-3**

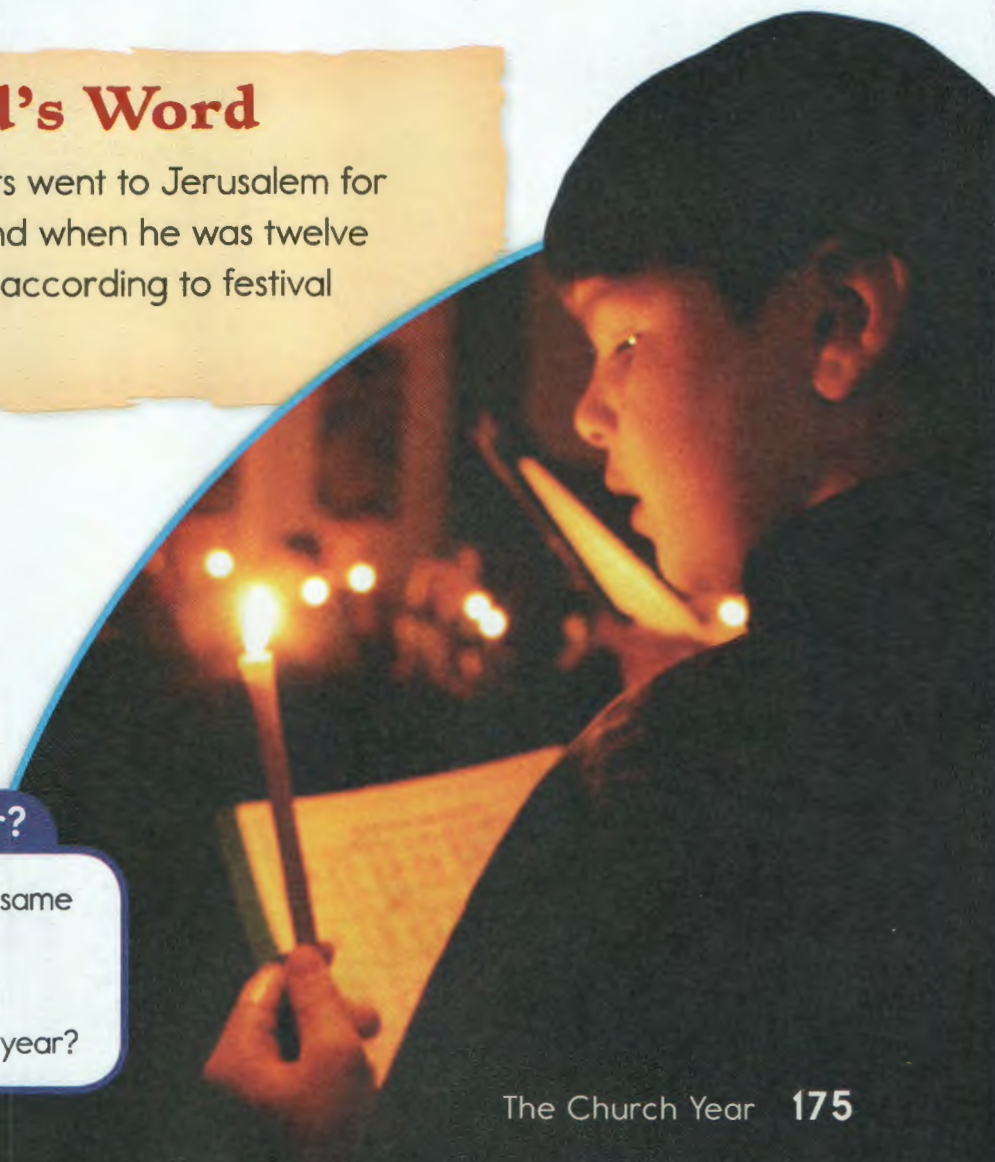
**All:** We praise you, Almighty God,  
forever and ever. Amen.

## God's Word

“Each year his parents went to Jerusalem for  
the feast of Passover, and when he was twelve  
years old, they went up according to festival  
custom.” **Luke 2:41-42**

### What Do You Wonder?

- Why do we celebrate the same things every year?
- What's the most important celebration in the Church year?



# Celebrate the Seasons

## What seasons are celebrated in the Church year?

### Catholic Faith Words

**liturgy** the public prayer of the Church. It includes the Sacraments and forms of daily prayer.

**worship** to adore and praise God, especially in the liturgy and in prayer

During the Church year the **liturgy**, or public prayer, celebrates the events in the life of Jesus. In her **worship**, the Church praises God and celebrates the light of Jesus throughout the Church year.

## Advent

During the four weeks of Advent, the Church gets ready to celebrate Jesus' birth. You tell God that you want to get better at loving him and others. Just as the seasons of the year have different colors, so do the Church's seasons. The color for Advent is violet. It is a sign of getting ready and change of heart.

Children celebrate the feast of Epiphany by dressing up as Mary, Joseph, and the three wise men.



# Christmas

The three weeks of the Christmas season celebrate Jesus' presence in the world. The Son of God came so all people could know his Father's love. The Christmas celebrations help people love Jesus and other people more. White or gold are the colors for the Christmas season. They are a sign of great joy.



Underline what the Church celebrates during Christmas.

# Ordinary Time

Ordinary Time comes twice during the Church year. The first time comes after the Christmas season. The second is after the Easter season. During these times, you learn more about Jesus and grow as his follower. Green is the season's color because it is the color of growth.



The lily is a sign of joy, hope, and life. It reminds us of how we grow in Christ.

## Share Your Faith

**Think** What season is the Church in now? Write one way you will celebrate this season.

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**Share** Talk about your answer with a partner.





Volunteers show their love for God and neighbors by helping others during Lent.

## Celebrating Jesus

**What is the greatest feast of the year?**

### Lent

The Season of Lent is a preparation for the important feast of Easter. For forty days and six Sundays, the Church's color is violet. As during Advent, you are asked to make changes that will help you grow closer to Jesus. It's a special time to show God you are sorry and fully focused on him. You are to pray more often and help others.

### The Three Days

The three days before Easter are the holiest days of the Church year. On Holy Thursday, the Church celebrates Jesus' gift of the Eucharist at the Last Supper. It is a happy occasion, a time of joy, so the color is white.

On Good Friday, the Church gives thanks to Jesus as Savior. The color is red because Jesus died for all people. Holy Saturday evening begins the Easter celebration. For this joyous feast, the color is white.

## Easter

Every Sunday, the Church celebrates the **Resurrection**, when Jesus was raised from the dead. But each year, the Church also celebrates the Resurrection of Jesus for fifty days from Easter to Pentecost. Easter is the greatest feast of the Church year. The color during this season is white.

The last ten days of this season celebrate Jesus' promise to send the Holy Spirit. Pentecost is the celebration of the Holy Spirit coming to the Apostles, Mary, and other disciples. For this feast, the color red is used as a sign of the power of the Holy Spirit.

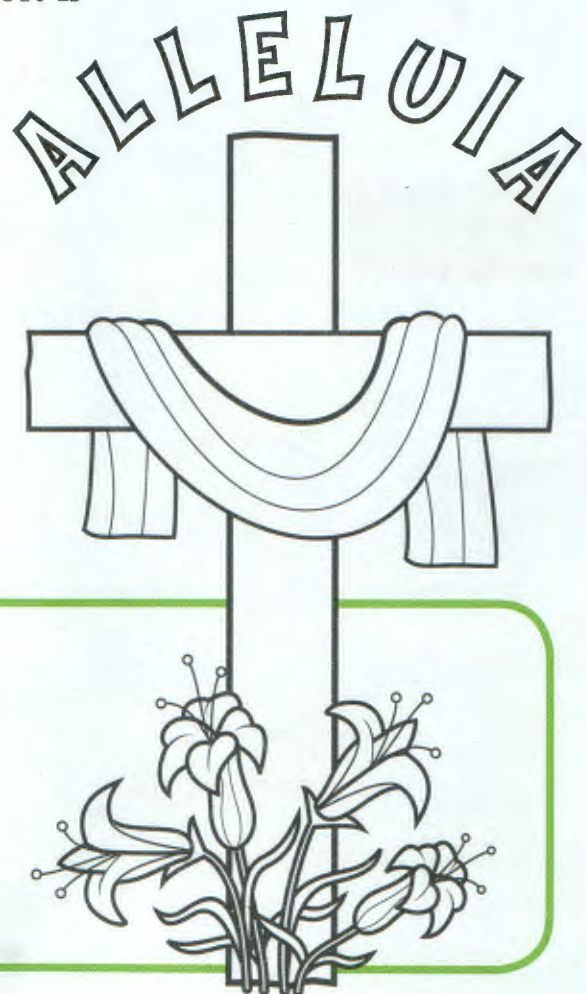
➔ Why do you think Easter is the greatest feast of the Church year?

### Connect Your Faith

**Decorate the Cross** and color in the word above it.

## Catholic Faith Words

**Resurrection** the event of Jesus being raised from Death to new life by God the Father through the power of the Holy Spirit



# Our Catholic Life

## How do you know what Church season it is?

Your parish family uses colors to celebrate the Church's seasons and feasts, too. Here are some places you may see colors of the season used in your parish church.



Fill in the blanks to describe the words on the left.



### Vestments

The special r  b  s worn by the priest and the deacon for M   s



### Altar Hangings

The cloth on top of the altar is always w  i  e, but sometimes another drape in the color of the season also hangs on the  l  a .



### Banners

Like f  a  s, these colorful h  n  i  gs can be carried in procession.



### Flowers and Plants

Flowers and plants that d  c  r   e the church can help you tell what  ea  o  it is.

# People of Faith

## Pope Saint Victor, d. 199

Pope Saint Victor was the first Pope from Africa. When he was Pope, people couldn't agree when to celebrate Easter. They needed to know the day of Easter to plan the seasons of the Church year. Pope Victor and the bishops decided that it must be celebrated on Sunday. He also knew it was important for people to be able to understand the Mass, which was only said in Latin. He declared that the Mass should be said in the language of the people, and today the Mass is said in many languages, including Latin.



July 28

**Discuss:** What languages have you heard at Mass?

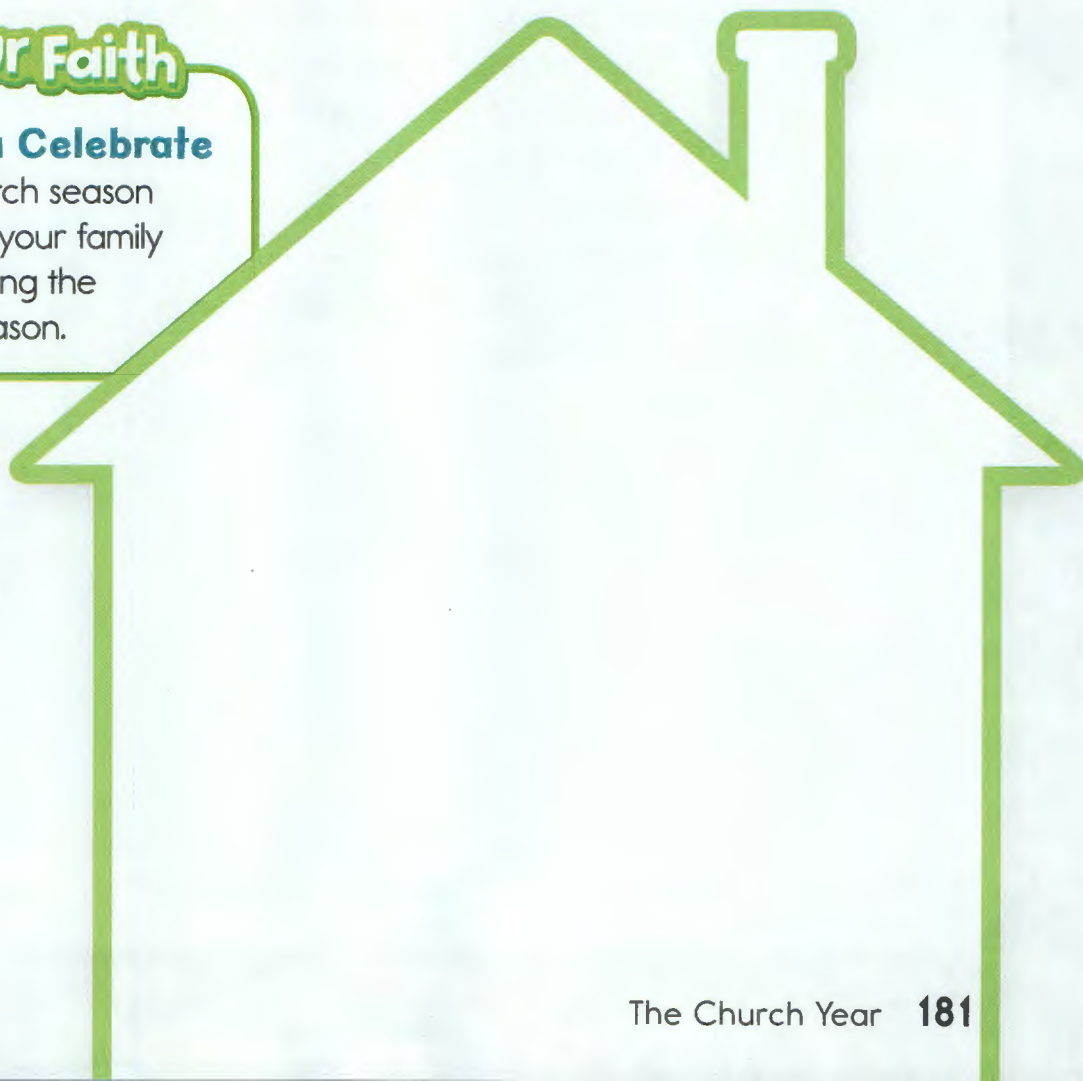


Learn more about Saint Victor at [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com)

## Live Your Faith

### How Do You Celebrate

Choose a Church season and draw how your family celebrates it using the color of the season.





 Let Us Pray

## Bless the God of Seasons

Gather and begin with the Sign of the Cross.

**Leader:** God our Father, we thank you for all that is beautiful in the world and for the happiness you give us.

**Reader 1:** We praise you for your daylight and your word which gives light to our minds.

**Reader 2:** We praise you for our Earth and all the people on it.

**All:** We know that you are good.  
You love us and do great things for us.



Sing "A Circle of Colors"

It's a circle of colors painting the Church year with reminders of the love God has for you.

The white and golds of Christmas and Easter. Pretty purples at Advent and Lent.

Red at Pentecost and to honor the Holy Spirit.

Ordinary Time's alive with greens. Each color chosen for a special reason.

A circle of colors through the seasons.

Text and music by Chet A. Chambers.

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## YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

This chapter explores how the seasons of the Church year celebrate the life, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus.

### God's Word



Read **Luke 2:41–42** to see how people listened to what Jesus said.

### Catholics Believe

- The Church year celebrates the life, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus.
- The Resurrection is the mystery of Jesus being raised from the dead.

To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #1188–1195 at [usccb.org](http://usccb.org).

### People of Faith

This week, your child met Saint Victor. An early Pope, Victor determined that Easter must always be celebrated on a Sunday.

## CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

**How They Understand the Church Year** Children at this age have grown in their awareness of special seasons and times of year. They understand at what time of year they will have a birthday or celebrate Christmas or Easter. They might have missed some of the more subtle indicators of changes in the Church year, like changes in color of vestments and church decor, but can begin to identify them with some help. Point out to your child the times when something has changed in the church to mark a change in the Church year. See if your child can tell you what is different.



## CONSIDER THIS >>>

Do you have family traditions in your home that celebrate the Church seasons?

All traditions give children and adults alike a deep sense of continuity and rootedness. Traditions that communicate God's presence in our lives draw us ever closer to God and our Church. "In the Liturgical Year, the Church celebrates the whole mystery of Christ from the Incarnation until the day of Pentecost and the expectation of Christ's second coming... The presence of the Risen Lord and his saving work permeates the entire Liturgical Year: Advent, the Christmas season, Lent, the Easter season, and Ordinary Time" (*USCCA p. 173*).

## LET'S TALK >>>

- Ask your child to name one Church season and what we celebrate during that time.
- Share a special childhood memory about a season or feast day, and discuss some ways your family can celebrate the current season.

## LET'S PRAY >>>



Saint Victor, help us to always remember the importance of Easter. Amen.



For a multimedia glossary of Catholic Faith Words, Sunday readings, seasonal and Saint resources, and chapter activities go to [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com).

# Chapter 12 Review

**A Work with Words** Write the letter of the correct season from the Word Bank next to the description of the season.

- Three weeks of joy that celebrate Jesus' birth and presence in the world.
- The season that comes twice during the year.
- Four weeks of getting ready to celebrate Jesus' birth and presence with us.
- The season that celebrates Jesus' Resurrection.
- Forty days of praying and helping others as a way to prepare for Easter.

## Word Bank

- a. Advent
- b. Christmas
- c. Lent
- d. Ordinary Time
- e. Easter

**B Check Understanding** Write T if the sentence is TRUE. Write F if the sentence is FALSE.

- Banners are special robes worn by the priest.
- The cloth on top of the altar is white.
- Flowers and plants that decorate the church can help you tell what season it is.
- The Church's seasons have different colors.
- Each year the Church celebrates Pentecost sixty days after Christmas.

