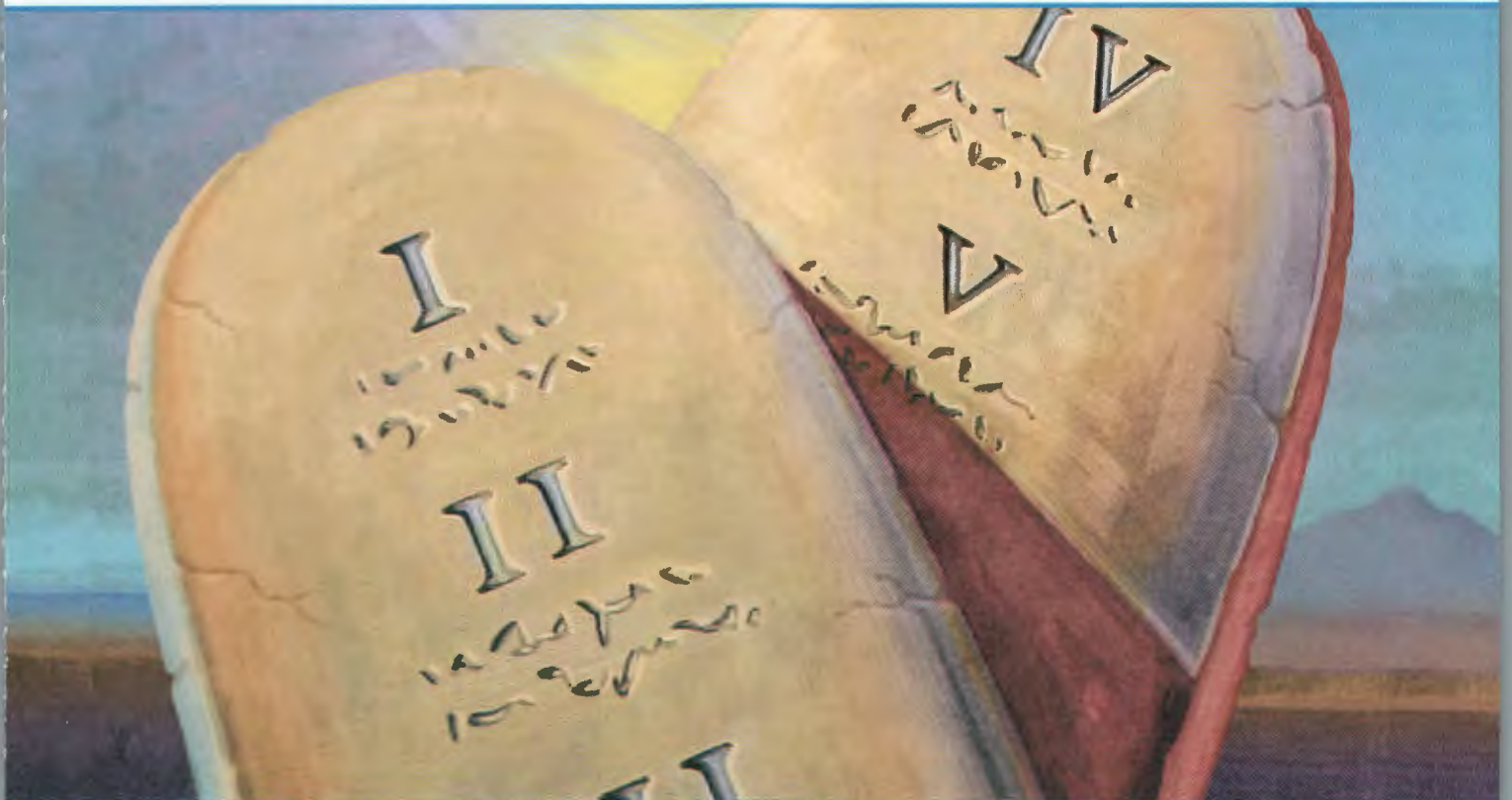


ALIVE IN CHRIST

GRADE 4

The Moral Life

aliveinchrist.osv.com



OurSundayVisitor

Sacraments



Our Catholic Tradition

- The Paschal Mystery is celebrated in the seasons of the liturgical year and through the Sacraments. (CCC, 1171)
- Christ instituted the Seven Sacraments as effective signs of God's life and love that give us grace. (CCC, 1131)
- The Eucharist is the heart of the Church's life. (CCC, 1407)
- The Sacraments of Healing are about conversion, forgiveness, and healing. (CCC, 1421)

How does Jesus' saving work continue through the Seven Sacraments and the celebration of the liturgical year?



The Liturgical Year

Let Us Pray

Leader: Loving Lord, we praise you and give you thanks no matter the time, no matter the season.

“I will bless the LORD at all times;
his praise shall be always in my mouth.” **Psalm 34:2**

All: Loving Lord, we praise you and give you thanks no matter the time, no matter the season.

Scripture

My deliverance and honor are with God,
my strong rock;
my refuge is with God.
Trust God at all times, my people!
Pour out your hearts to God our refuge!
Psalm 62:8-9

© Our Sunday Visitor

What Do You Wonder?

- Why does the Church tell the story of Jesus' life over and over again?
- Is Jesus really with you in each moment of your day?



A Time for Everything

What is the Paschal Mystery?

All living things follow a pattern. They come to life, they grow and develop, and finally they die. This pattern is called a life cycle. Every year, as the seasons change, you see changes in the world around you. God tells us about the importance of seasons and cycles in one of the Wisdom Books in the Bible.

Scripture

The Right Time

There is an appointed time for everything,
and a time for every affair under the heavens.

A time to give birth, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant . . .

A time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance . . .

A time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to cast away . . .

A time to love, and a time to hate;
a time of war, and a time of peace. **Ecclesiastes 3:1–8**

➔ What message was God giving us in this poem?



The Paschal Mystery

Jesus experienced the natural cycle of life, but his cycle did not end with his Death on the Cross. God the Father raised Jesus from the dead and to new life. Then Jesus ascended to join his Father in Heaven. The suffering, Death, Resurrection, and **Ascension** of Jesus are called the **Paschal Mystery**. This mystery reveals that Jesus saved all humans from the power of sin and everlasting death.

The Church celebrates this mystery in every Sacrament and especially at every Eucharist. Every Sunday we gather with the parish community to celebrate the new life that Jesus' Resurrection gives us.

The Liturgical Year

From week to week at Mass, you may notice different readings, hymns, and colors. These mark the seasons of the Church's year, called the **liturgical year**. The liturgical year begins on the first Sunday of Advent, usually around December 1, and ends with the feast of Christ the King.

Catholic Faith Words

Ascension when the Risen Jesus was taken up to Heaven to be with God the Father forever

Paschal Mystery the mystery of Jesus' suffering, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension

liturgical year the feasts and seasons of the Church calendar that celebrate the Paschal Mystery of Christ

Share Your Faith

Reflect Think about what you did last week. In the boxes, sketch one of the symbols for the "times" of your life. If Monday was a happy time, draw a smiling face to show that you were happy. Use different symbols to represent your "times."

Share With a partner, share some of the best and worst times you had last week.



The Church's Seasons

What are the seasons of the liturgical year?

Just as the seasons of the year mark the cycles of life and death in nature, the seasons of the liturgical year mark and celebrate the events of the Paschal Mystery.

➔ What is your favorite liturgical season? Why?

Advent

Advent is the beginning of the Church year. The four weeks before Christmas are a time of preparation for the coming of Jesus. The Church asks the Holy Spirit to help people welcome Jesus into their hearts every day. The seasonal color is violet, a sign of waiting.

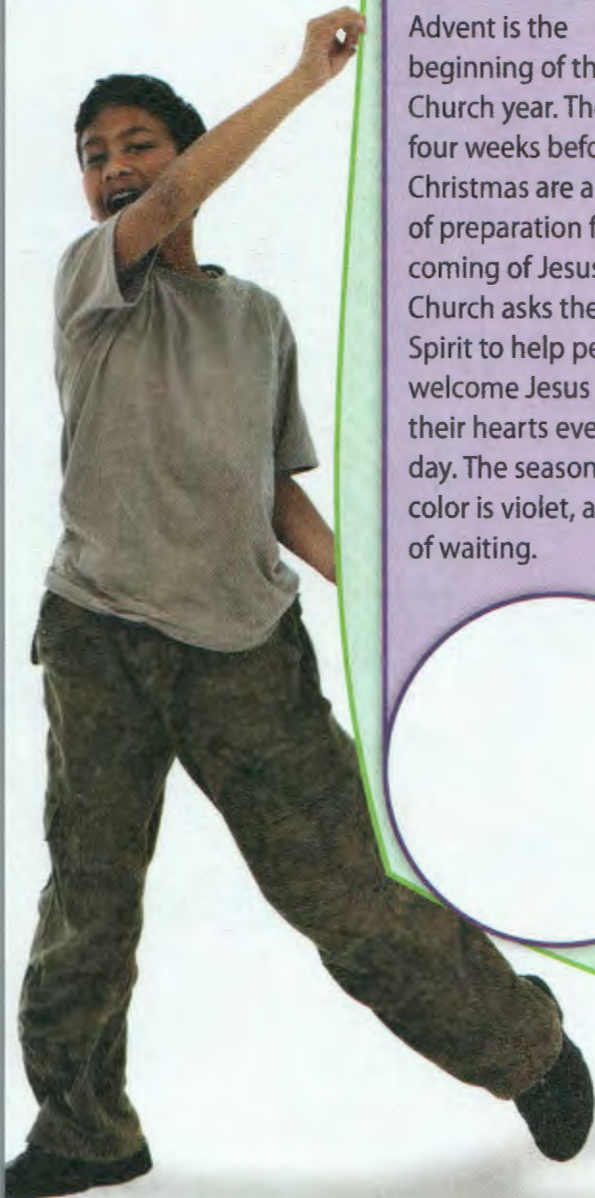
Christmas

The Christmas season lasts from Christmas Eve through the Sunday after Epiphany, which is twelve days after Christmas. It is a time to be joyful and to thank God the Father for sending his Son to become one of us. White and gold colors are reminders to celebrate the gift of Jesus.

Lent

Lent lasts for forty days. It begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Thursday. Lent is a time to prepare for Easter by following Jesus more closely. The seasonal color of violet is used as a sign of penance.

© Our Sunday Visitor



Connect Your Faith

Remember His Love On the chart of seasons on these pages, design symbols or write phrases to illustrate the saving actions of Jesus that each season celebrates.

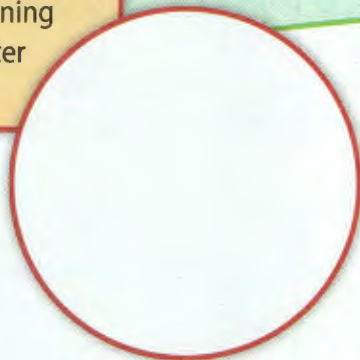


Easter

The Easter Season continues for fifty days until Pentecost. It is a time to remember your Baptism and to give thanks for the Resurrection of Jesus that saved all people from the power of sin and everlasting death. White or gold colors are used during this season as a sign of great joy.

Triduum

The Easter Season is preceded by a three-day celebration of the Paschal Mystery called the Triduum. It starts with the celebration of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday and ends with evening prayer on Easter Sunday.



Ordinary Time

Ordinary Time is a season in two parts. The first is between the Christmas season and the First Sunday of Lent. The second is between the Easter season and Advent. Ordinary Time is the time to remember the works of Jesus and listen to his teachings. The color green is used during this season as a sign of hope and growth.



Our Catholic Life

How do you celebrate the seasons of the Church year?

The seasons in nature affect the way you think and act. For example, you would not try to go ice fishing in the middle of summer. The Church also wants you to think and act according to her seasons.

Each season of the Church year gives you a different way to look at Jesus and the people and the world around you. Here are some ways to pray and live according to the seasons.



In each of the boxes, write one other way you can celebrate that Church season.

Celebrating the Seasons

Christmas

Celebrate Jesus' birth by looking for the love of Jesus in everyone you meet.

Ordinary Time

Learn more about Jesus by reading the Bible. Imitate his love for those who are poor, suffering, or sick.

Advent

Prepare for Jesus' coming into your heart by practicing patience.

Lent

Pray, fast, and focus your attention upon acts of penance. These actions will prepare you to celebrate Easter.

Easter

Celebrate the wonderful news that you have been saved. Share your experiences of how God has worked in your life.



People of Faith

Saint Juan Diego, 1474–1548

December 9

The Church and the year both have seasons. Sometimes God makes special things happen out of season to show his love. Saint Juan Diego lived in Mexico. One December day, while walking to church, he met a woman who said she was the Mother of God and her Son was Jesus, the Savior. She said her title was Our Lady of Guadalupe. When Juan asked for a sign to be sure, roses bloomed even though it was cold and wintery. Juan brought the roses to his bishop, who had a shrine built at the site where Juan had seen Mary.



Discuss: When has God shown you a sign of love?



Learn more about Saint Juan Diego at aliveinchrist.osv.com

Live Your Faith

Recall the liturgical season the Church is currently celebrating.

Name and draw one thing you can do to celebrate this season now.

 Let Us Pray

Prayer of Praise

Gather and begin with the Sign of the Cross.

Leader: God, our good Father, you sent Jesus, your Son, to rescue us from the power of sin and everlasting death.

All: We proclaim your Death, O Lord.

Leader: Jesus, you came into this world of darkness as the light. Your words of love touched those who were sick and weak. You forgave sinners and freed them from shame.

All: Jesus lives with us.

Leader: Jesus, you died on the Cross, a sacrifice of love to set us free from our sins.

All: Jesus died for us.

Leader: Jesus, you were raised from the dead and ascended into Heaven. You sent the Holy Spirit to be with us always. We hope to share eternal life with you.

All: We wait in joyful hope!

Leader: Let us pray.

Bow your heads as
the leader prays.

All: Amen.



Sing "We Proclaim Your Death, O Lord"



FAMILY+FAITH

LIVING AND LEARNING TOGETHER

YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

This chapter explains that the Paschal Mystery is the mystery of Christ's suffering, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension, and that the feasts and seasons of the liturgical year celebrate the Paschal Mystery of Christ.

Scripture



Read **Psalm 62:8–9** to find out about the importance of giving thanks to God.

Catholics Believe

- The liturgical year celebrates the Paschal Mystery.
- The seasons of the liturgical year include Advent, Christmas, Lent, Triduum, Easter, and Ordinary Time.

To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #1067–1068, 1168–1171 at usccb.org.

People of Faith

This week, your child learned about Saint Juan Diego. Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared to him as he walked to church one morning.

CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

How They Understand the Church Year Your child has a better “internal calendar” than he or she did as a preschooler. Children this age can calculate how long it will be until Christmas or Easter, for example. As they learn about the Church year, their ability to understand time can help them feel involved in the celebrations and seasons of the Church calendar. This is especially true when they have an opportunity to mark time in the home with a sacred space that reflects the current season (for example, cloths of green, purple, red, or white and icons that fit the season).



CONSIDER THIS >>>

When have you longed for a flower to remain in bloom or for a child to not grow up too quickly?

All living things follow a cycle. They come to life, grow and develop, and finally die. The rhythm of the liturgical seasons of the Church flow through our lives just as the cycle of life. As Catholics, we know that “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 summit of the Liturgical Year is the Easter Triduum—from the evening of Holy Thursday to the evening of Easter Sunday” (*USCCA, p. 173*).

LET’S TALK >>>

- Ask your child to tell you about the liturgical year.
- Share memories of the ways your family has celebrated different Church holidays.

LET’S PRAY >>>



O God, help us grow closer to you by our worship at the Eucharist, our learning of our Catholic faith, and our devotion to prayer. Amen.



For a multimedia glossary of Catholic Faith Words, Sunday readings, seasonal and Saint resources, and chapter activities go to aliveinchrist.osv.com.

Chapter 16 Review

A Work with Words Match each description in Column 1 with the correct term in Column 2.

Column 1

1. a time of penance
2. celebrates the birth of Jesus
3. focuses on the Resurrection of Jesus
4. prepares for the coming of Jesus
5. focuses on Jesus' work and teachings

Column 2

- Advent
Christmas
Ordinary Time
Lent
Easter

B Check Understanding Complete each statement with the correct term from the Word Bank.

Word Bank

liturgical works Paschal Triduum Thursday

6. The _____ Mystery is the mystery of Jesus' suffering, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension.
7. The _____ year is the cycle of feasts and seasons that celebrate the Paschal Mystery of Christ.
8. _____ is a celebration of the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Christ.
9. In the Church year, the Triduum begins on Holy _____ evening and concludes on Easter Sunday night.
10. Ordinary Time is the time to remember the _____ of Jesus and listen to his teachings.

