

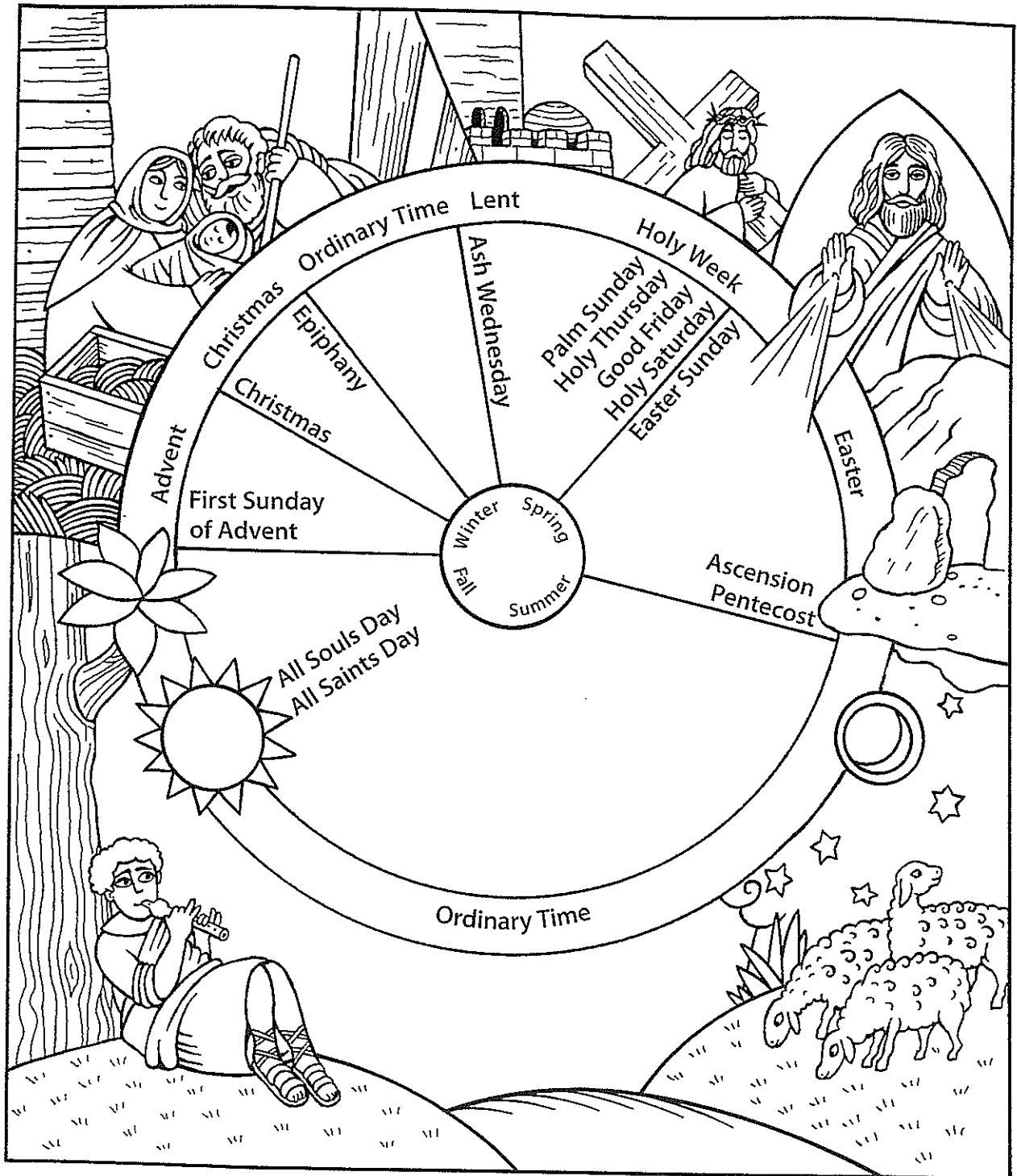
Name _____

Date _____

The Liturgical Calendar

The liturgical calendar shows the feasts and seasons of the Church year.

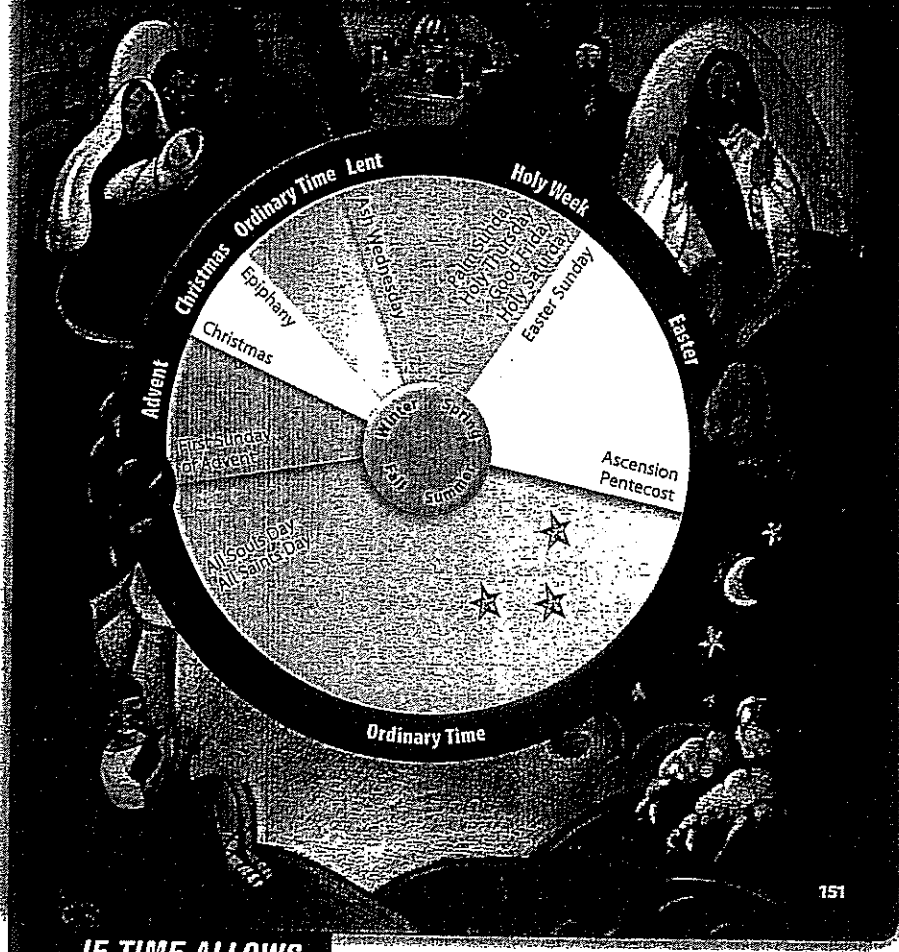
Directions: Color in each season with the correct liturgical color.



The Year in Our Church

Liturgical Calendar

The liturgical calendar shows us the feasts and seasons of the Church year.



IF TIME ALLOWS

The Liturgical Calendar BLM

Feast and Season Booklets The liturgical colors for the seasons are purple for Advent, Lent, and Holy Week; white for Easter and Christmas; and green for Ordinary Time. Help children make eight-page booklets with four sheets of drawing paper, a hole punch, and yarn to tie the pages together. Have children color The Liturgical Calendar Blackline Master [T-341], using the correct liturgical color for each season. Then have them cut it out and glue it to the cover of their booklets. Explain that each page of the booklets will feature a "celebrity" from each liturgical season they will learn about this year, such as John the Baptist for Advent. Tell children that as they learn about a new feast or season, they can design a page of the booklet by adding their celebrity, Scripture, drawings, or other details.

FYI

Liturgical Calendar

The liturgical calendar represents the celebration of the mystery of Christ, from the anticipation of his birth to the sending of the Holy Spirit. The Church marks the passage of time with a cycle of seasons and feasts that invites us, year after year, to deepen our commitment to Jesus. By inviting children into these celebrations, you help them grow in the Catholic way of life.

1 Set the Stage

Engage children in a discussion about the seasons. Hold up a calendar and randomly select months, asking children to identify the seasons in which they belong. Ask: *How else can we tell what season we're in?* (Possible answers: the weather, nature, temperature) Say: *Today we're going to learn about a different kind of calendar. It marks the feasts and seasons of the Church year.*

2 Get Started

Have children open their books to page 151. Ask: *What do you think the diagram on this page represents?* (Accept all reasonable answers.) Say: *It is a liturgical calendar.* Ask: *What do we mark on regular calendars?* (birthdays, holidays, after-school activities) Say: *In the same way, the Church keeps a calendar to mark special times in Jesus' life, Death, and Resurrection. In our calendar year, we have seasons. The liturgical calendar has seasons too. They are shown in the dark blue circle.* Ask: *What are they?* (Advent, Christmas, Lent, Holy Week, Easter, Ordinary Time) Say: *A regular calendar shows holidays that commemorate special people and events. The liturgical calendar shows special feasts and holy days.*

Liturgical Year

At the beginning of each seasonal session, direct the children to turn to page 152 and to read the paragraph about the season they will be celebrating. You may use the following summaries to provide additional information about each season.

Advent

Advent is a season of hope and joyful anticipation of the coming of Christ. While we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ, we also use the season of Advent to anticipate his Second Coming.

Christmas

At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus. This celebration lasts until the Sunday after the Epiphany, which is often the Baptism of the Lord. On the Epiphany, which means to “show” or “reveal,” we celebrate Jesus being revealed to the world.

Lent

Lent is a season of prayer and preparation because we know that the happiness of Easter comes as a result of the pain of the cross. Throughout these 40 days, the Church prepares by praying, fasting, and giving alms.

Holy Week

Holy Week begins with Jesus’ entrance into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. We celebrate the culmination of the entire liturgical year by marking the Triduum—Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday.

Easter

Because Jesus’ Resurrection is the central feast of Christianity, the Church sets aside 50 days of joyful celebration. These 50 days begin with Easter Sunday and end with Pentecost.

Liturgical Year

We get our hearts ready to welcome Jesus during Advent.

Christmas celebrates Jesus’ birth. The Epiphany celebrates Jesus’ coming for all people of the world.

Lent prepares us for Easter. It is a time to do extra good deeds.

During Holy Week we remember the suffering and Death of Jesus.

On Easter we recall with joy Jesus’ rising from the dead.

Pentecost is the feast of the Holy Spirit’s coming to guide the Church.

All Saints Day celebrates all the holy people who died and now live with God in Heaven.

Ordinary Time is time set aside for everyday living as followers of Jesus.



Pentecost

On Pentecost we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples 50 days after Jesus’ Resurrection. Pentecost is our celebration of the birthday of the universal Church.

All Saints Day

The Communion of Saints consists of those who are on earth, those who have died and are being purified, and those who are blessed in Heaven. The Communion of Saints is celebrated on the Feasts of All Saints Day [November 1].

Ordinary Time

During Ordinary Time we reflect on our call to discipleship. Typically lasting 33 weeks, Ordinary Time is celebrated following the Christmas season and again following the Easter season.