

## Colors of the Church Year

In the Old Testament, God set a cycle of sacred days and sacrifices that His people were to celebrate throughout the year. All these feasts and sacrifices were only pointers to Jesus.

Very early the New Testament church made a cycle of sacred days to remember important events in the life of Jesus and the life of the Church. We call it simply **The \_\_\_\_\_ Year**

The church year is divided into two main parts:

The Time of \_\_\_\_\_ and The Time of the Church

The Time of Christ is divided into two major sections:

The Christmas Cycle and the \_\_\_\_\_ Cycle

Each cycle is divided into three parts:

Season of Preparation

Season of \_\_\_\_\_

Season of Growth

Advent is the season of preparation in the Christmas Cycle.

What are we preparing for?

Blue is the color of \_\_\_\_\_ and anticipation.

The Advent \_\_\_\_\_ is a count up to Christmas

\_\_\_\_\_ is the color of joy, celebration, gladness, light. It is also the color of purity, innocence.

The Festival of Christmas last \_\_\_\_\_ days. It begins Christmas Day and ends at Epiphany.

Epiphany is the day we remember the visit of the \_\_\_\_\_ from the East.

Epiphany means \_\_\_\_\_. During the season of Epiphany things that happen to Jesus and things Jesus does reveals that He is God in the flesh.

The altar cloth shows what four events of Epiphany?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Baptism of Jesus
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Transfiguration

The Easter Cycle begins with \_\_\_\_\_.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday – the seventh Wednesday before Easter. Lent lasts \_\_\_\_\_ days (not counting Sunday)

Why 40 days?

The last week of Lent is called \_\_\_\_\_.

Holy Week begins with \_\_\_\_\_ Sunday.

On Maundy Thursday we remember Jesus in the upper room, the institution of Communion. Maundy means commandment. Why would it be called that? John 13:31-35

Good Friday is the remembrance of Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ .

Red is the color of \_\_\_\_\_.

It is used for the Day of Pentecost when we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit visibly in what seemed “\_\_\_\_\_ of fire” resting on the disciples.

There are \_\_\_\_\_ flames on the altar cloth.

Why?

Green is the color of \_\_\_\_\_, leaves, and life. It suggests a time of spiritual growth. It is used in the cycles of growth – the season of Epiphany and Pentecost.

Red is also used at services in which we celebrate the activity or renewal in the Holy Spirit.

On \_\_\_\_\_ Saints Day we celebrate those who have “come out of the great tribulation and have washed their robes and made the white in the blood of the Lamb.” Revelation 7:9-17

We also remember our members who have died in the past year.

\_\_\_\_\_ Day is the one national “holyday” that we celebrate in the church. You’ll never find it on a traditional calendar of the church year. It functions somewhat like the harvest festival of the Old Testament, and sets aside time to give thanks and sing.

### **Christian Symbols**

One of the earliest and most common symbols for Christians was a fish. The word for “fish” in Greek is “ΙΧΘΥΣ” Each letter stood for a word about Jesus.

I = \_\_\_\_\_

X = \_\_\_\_\_

Θ = \_\_\_\_\_

Ψ = \_\_\_\_\_

Σ = \_\_\_\_\_

A \_\_\_\_\_ is a common image for Jesus. John the Baptizer pointed to Jesus and said, “Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” John 1:29

The Chi Rho are the first two letters in the name \_\_\_\_\_.

IHS are the first three letters in Greek for Jesus.

INRI stands for \_\_\_\_\_ of Nazareth \_\_\_\_\_ of the Jews.

NIKA means \_\_\_\_\_.

Fleur de Lis means flower of the lily. It reminds us of an

\_\_\_\_\_ lily and the resurrection of Jesus.

The LCMS Cross

Top arms open up

Bottom arms open down

\_\_\_\_\_ crosses in \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ sons of Abraham and the \_\_\_\_\_ apostle’s of Jesus