

The Changes in the Seasonal Environment of the Church: A Tool to Use for Bulletin Inserts

LENT

From Ash Wednesday morning to Holy Thursday afternoon

Lent is a time to immerse ourselves in the Paschal Mystery of Christ's Passion, death and resurrection. It is a time for serious prayer, penance, fasting and works for charity; a time for understanding and accepting the positive role of suffering in the Christian life. It is also a time for the elect to prepare for baptism and for us to recall our Baptism.



Six Weeks:

From Ash Wednesday to Holy Thursday Afternoon

Baptismal and penitential themes

COLOR: **Reddish-purple**

SOUNDS: Simplify music in order to focus on essentials

PASCHAL TRIDUUM

From Holy Thursday sundown to Easter Sunday sundown

The fast and the feast together – Holy Thursday evening, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday – are the Paschal Triduum, meaning “the Three Days of Passover.”

The Triduum is the heart of the church year – the three days of the suffering, death, burial and resurrection of Christ.

Three Days:

From Holy Thursday sundown to Easter Sunday sundown

One continuous celebration of our salvation – the Lord's Supper, the Passion, the Resurrection

Color: Holy Thursday – **White**

Sounds: Gloria is sung with bells ringing; washing of feet

Color: Good Friday - **Red**

Sounds: Solemn intercessions and veneration of the Cross

Color: Easter Vigil - **White**

Sounds: Blessing of fire and water

Gloria sung with bells ringing

Scriptures tell the history of God's people

Many Alleluias

Color: Easter Day - **White**

Sounds: Joyful music

Easter sequence

Renewal of baptismal promises

Many Alleluias



EASTERTIME

From Easter Sunday to Pentecost

Eastertime is the 50 – day celebration that flows from the Triduum, 50 days to sing Alleluia, 50 days to live as if God’s rule of justice and peace were fully with us. It is the church’s most ancient and most beautiful season. On Pentecost the assembly is sent out anew to continue Jesus’ mission.



Eight Weeks

From Easter Sunday to Pentecost
Springtime, new beginnings

Color:Easter - **White**

Sounds:Alleluia!

Color:Pentecost - **Red**

Sounds:Come, Holy Spirit!



SUMMER/FALL ORDINARY TIME

Between Easter time and Advent

There are about 32 weeks outside the five church sessions to focus on mission. These weeks are called “Ordinary time,” from the word “ordinal,” meaning counted. Each week is given a number to help us divide the Scriptures into readings and to place these readings in a book called the Lectionary.

Twenty four to twenty-nine weeks: Pentecost to Advent

Growth in the lessons learned during the festal seasons

Color: **Green**

Sounds: Music expressing many aspects of our faith.