

Seasons and Liturgical Colors

The Church Calendar

- Advent,
- Christmas
- Epiphany
- Ash Wednesday
- Lent
- Holy week(Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday)
- Easter
- Pentecost
- Trinity Sunday
- After Pentecost
- All Saints' Day

Purple

Purple is the color of and Advent and Lent. It symbolizes penitence, sorrow, and also royalty

Advent, the four Sundays before Christmas Day and the Sunday on or nearest St. Andrew's Day, 30 November. Candles and greens are appropriate during this season. The Advent wreath has 3 purple candles, one rose (Mary) candle, and a large white candle in the center, the Christ candle. A candle is lighted on the first Sunday; on each following Sunday, an additional candle is lighted. The rose candle is lighted the third Sunday. The Christ candle is lighted on Christmas Eve. The Advent wreath is covered with greens signifying the Holy Spirit: ivy, laurel, cypress, rosemary, holly, fir, and mistletoe

Lent, includes 40 days, excluding Sundays which are often called little Easters. Lent extends from Ash Wednesday to Easter Eve. Purple is used from Ash Wednesday until Palm Sunday and the cross may be veiled in sheer purple.

White

White is the color of Christmas, Epiphany, The Baptism of our Lord, All Saints' Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving Day, Easter Season (Easter – Pentecost), Transfiguration Day, Ascension Day, and Trinity Sunday. It symbolizes purity and new birth. White is used for weddings, baptisms, funerals and special occasions.

Christmas season begins on Christmas Eve and continues through the twelve days of Christmas until Epiphany, on January 6

Epiphany celebrates the arrival of the Magi on the 6th and it ends on Shrove Tuesday. The color changes from White to Green after the first Sunday of Epiphany.

Easter begins with the Easter Vigil. The Paschal candle is placed in the sanctuary through Pentecost Sunday.

Green

Green is the color of ordinary time, from Pentecost until Advent. Green symbolizes spring, life, growth in the Holy Spirit.

Red

Holy Week includes Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. On Palm Sunday the color is changed to Red and remains Red through the Maundy Thursday service.

Red is used for Holy Week and Pentecost (Whitsunday), Confirmation, Ordination, and Feast Days. Red is indicative of the Holy Spirit and Martyrdom, the days of the martyred saints. We use a red Veil and Burse, and the priests have Red stoles

Black

On Good Friday the cross is veiled in sheer black and the altar is bare.

ADVENT

The First Sunday in Advent begins a new liturgical year. The Advent Wreath in the cross window has three purple candles (Advent's royal color reminding us we are waiting for our King), one pink for the joy in the Advent III scriptures, and one white in the center for Christ. Green plants are used on the Altar in place of flowers. Hangings are changed to purple.

Advent Wreath

The base of the advent wreath is in the small hanging garment closet on the right hand side. The other parts consist of 5 oil burning candles; 3 purple 1 pink and 1 white (the Christ candle), and 5 wooden posts to hold the candles. The posts are different sizes, to represent the different weeks. The shortest is for week 1 and the longest is for the center Christ Candle. The shortest goes on the right front as you face it. The second the left front goes on the. The third (for the rose candle) goes left back. The fourth goes on the right back. The last (for the Christ Candle) goes in the center. They are marked with numbers.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm Sunday: Services are built on the entrance and passion narratives. Services begin in the Parish Hall with the blessing of the palms and entrance story, recounting the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. After the procession into the church, the joyful parade shifts to the intensity of the Passion Gospel. We read the great drama in parts. The reality of the death of Jesus prepares us for Easter Day in the event we miss Good Friday. Change the colors to **RED**

Day Before Palm Sunday:

- Invite the congregation to help make palm crosses – quantity 400. This is more than we need for our services because they are taken to shut-ins who can't get to church, as well as handed out to the congregation. There is a large straw woven platter to hold them that should be in the Usher closet.
- Remove green plants and replace with palm arrangements made in special brass vases found in upper inside cupboard. Make a palm arrangement for the window in the rectangle brass planter found on a high shelf in the upper inside cupboard.

Maundy Thursday recalls the institution of the Lord's Supper. The service offers the ceremony of the washing of feet for those who wish, following the example of Jesus washing the feet of his disciples, and concludes with the stripping of the altar. The congregation exits in silence. This day and Good Friday are major. We should all plan to be there if at all possible.

- We need 3 people to help with this service.
- Do as much before the service as possible.
- Empty LEV kits, be sure to handle blessed elements correctly. You should add the hosts to the bread box in the Aumbry. Either consume the wile, or pour it down the piscina. For Blessed wine always use the Cruet with the “R” on it. There are 2 Cruets with etching on them. Be sure to use the one with the “R”. This it to help tell which wine is blessed and which is not. The “R” stands for reserved.
- Get out 3 or 4 wash basins, “black plastic dish pans”, and towels from the upper inside cupboard.
- Get plastic pitchers from kitchen. These are to be used for the washing of the feet.
- The ushers will bring up 2 chairs for 2 stations of the foot washing.
- Set up normally for communion.
- During the service, altar guild members will bring water and empty basins as needed. Empty the full basins outside on the ground.
- At the end of the service everyone, servers and altar guild, help in stripping the altar.
- The Aumbry is emptied and left open. All blessed elements are placed on the counter the Priest's side of the Sacristy. They are covered with a veil.
- Place the Sanctuary candle by the blessed elements.

Good Friday: There is a one-hour noon service which solemnly focuses on the death of our Lord. The Passion Gospel according to John is read. Holy Communion will be administered from the reserved Sacrament, which was saved in the sacristy. LEV kits should have been emptied and also saved there. After the reserve is taken for use, the Sanctuary light should be put out as no more blessed elements are present.

Good Friday's outdoor Stations of the Cross begin at 6:00 p.m. on parish grounds. There is no need for Altar Guild. But this is a good service to attend.

Easter work day: The Saturday before Easter all hands on deck.

- Polish anything that may need it.
- Do all that needs to be done on a regular weekly workday. See "Duties for Weekly Work Day", in the front of this book. Except set up for 6:00 AM service on a cart from the kitchen.
- Put up Torches. See Torches under candles in this book.
- Put on Fair Linen.
- Put up white hangings. Leave the one on the altar off.
- Put up Paschal candle. See Paschal candle under candles in this book.
- Bring back flags. Put U.S. flag on the left, as you are facing the front.
- Bring back the bible
- Bring back everything that was removed on Maundy Thursday.
- Set out Easter lilies. In front of the altar, the pulpit and the lectern. Set Easter Lilies in the niches.



Easter Morning: There are three services.

First is in the courtyard at 6:00 a.m. Coats, caps, scarves and cushions are in order. While the courtyard can be chilly at daybreak, the time and setting are great choices for the church's most important Sunday. Consider offering your school, age children this experience. Avoid later crowds. See pictures for set up of this service.

We use the same things that we use inside. It works well to put them on a cart from the kitchen, (this can be done on the work day). Set up for 8:00.



Second service with choir is at 8:00 in the church.

- Set up for a normal Sunday.
- Light the torches. Leave them lit for 10:00
- Clean up as normal
- Setup for 10:00

Third service with choir is at 10:00 in the church.

- Clean up as normal.
- Put out torches

THE DAY OF PENTECOST

Today is the Day of Pentecost, the festival celebrating the coming of the Holy Spirit among the disciples fifty days after Easter. Many are sporting red shirts, ties, dresses, etc. in church today, the day's liturgical color recalling the tongues of fire that appeared among the disciples as a sign of the Spirit's presence. Among the Spirit's gifts that day was the ability to speak in different languages so that those gathered in Jerusalem from many nations could understand the disciples' preaching. We will celebrate this gift with the reading of portions of the Gospel lesson in foreign languages, followed by the entire Gospel in English.

Priests wear red.