

## **ADVENT -1**

In the Christian year beginning on the fourth Sunday before Christmas,

Advent is a time that helps us to remember Christ's first coming and reflect on the mystery of the Incarnation. It also teaches us to look eagerly for His second coming when He will return to redeem His creation and exercise His rule with all power and authority.

- **Themes:** darkness, light, waiting, candles, hope, peace, joy, love

## **CHRISTMAS -1**

We are now celebrating the Season of Christmas, a time that helps us to remember Christ's birth and reflect on the mystery of the Incarnation. It also teaches us to look eagerly for His promised return when He will come to redeem His creation and exercise His authority.

- **Themes:** nativity, angels, shepherds, star

## **EPIPHANY -2**

In the Christian year, Epiphany is a time that helps us to remember Jesus as the long-awaited Hebrew Messiah and His mission to the nations. Epiphany has a particular focus on Jesus as the Light of the World and "God with us," and the Church's role in proclaiming that Jesus is Lord.

- **Themes:** nations/globe, light, mission, God's presence, star, the magi,

## **LENT -1**

In the Christian year, Lent is a time to ask God to help us confront our own mortality and sinfulness, to ask Him to show us our need for grace, to grow in repentance, and to reflect on the amazing truth of the Church's participation in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The season of Lent—the period between Ash Wednesday and the Saturday before Easter—lasts 40 days (not including Sundays), reminiscent of the 40 days Jesus fasted in the wilderness.

- **Themes:** repentance, cross, prayer, temptation, God's promises, ashes, purple, thorns, palm leaves

## **PASSION WEEK -1**

The conclusion of the season of Lent is known as Passion Week—a recounting of the final days of the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ. It begins on Palm Sunday with the entry of Christ into Jerusalem, and includes both Maundy Thursday (the institution of the Lord's Supper) and Good Friday (the crucifixion of our Lord). It follows Jesus through His betrayal, trial, and death on a cross. It culminates in His resurrection on Easter Sunday. We use this week to reflect on the amazing truth of the Church's participation in the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

- **Themes:** the cross, lamb, palm leaves, thorns

## **EASTER -1**

We are now in the season of Easter—a celebration of Jesus' victory over sin and death. Followers of Christ are called to a life of dying to sin, rising to the life of the Spirit, and participating in His reign as the Sovereign Lord. The Church now lives as those who are "risen with Christ," living under His rule.

- **Themes:** the cross, lamb, palm leaves, sunrise, tomb

## **SEASON AFTER PENTECOST/ORDINARY TIME - 4**

Fifty days after Christ's resurrection, the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples on the day of Pentecost. Pentecost was an established Jewish festival also known as the Feast of Weeks, which drew people from many nations back to Jerusalem (*Leviticus 23:15-21; Deuteronomy 16:16*). Pentecost is a new beginning. It recognizes the empowering of the Church to reach the world with the Gospel. In celebrating Pentecost, the Church expresses its gratitude for the faithfulness of Christ in fulfilling His promise to send "another counselor" (*John 14:16*); celebrates the work of the Spirit in renewing all of creation; professes its confidence and security in knowing the Spirit's power for mission; and grows in awareness of the immensity of its calling to reach the world with the Gospel. Having celebrated the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church at Pentecost, we are now in the season after Pentecost, known as "Ordinary Time" which signals the interim of the Church until Christ comes again in glory. Jesus is faithfully advancing His Kingdom in the power of His Spirit in this season. We anticipate the consummation of all things when Christ comes in His glory as King of all.

- **Themes:** nations/globe, dove, fire, wind, breath, red, creation/growth, loaves and fishes, green