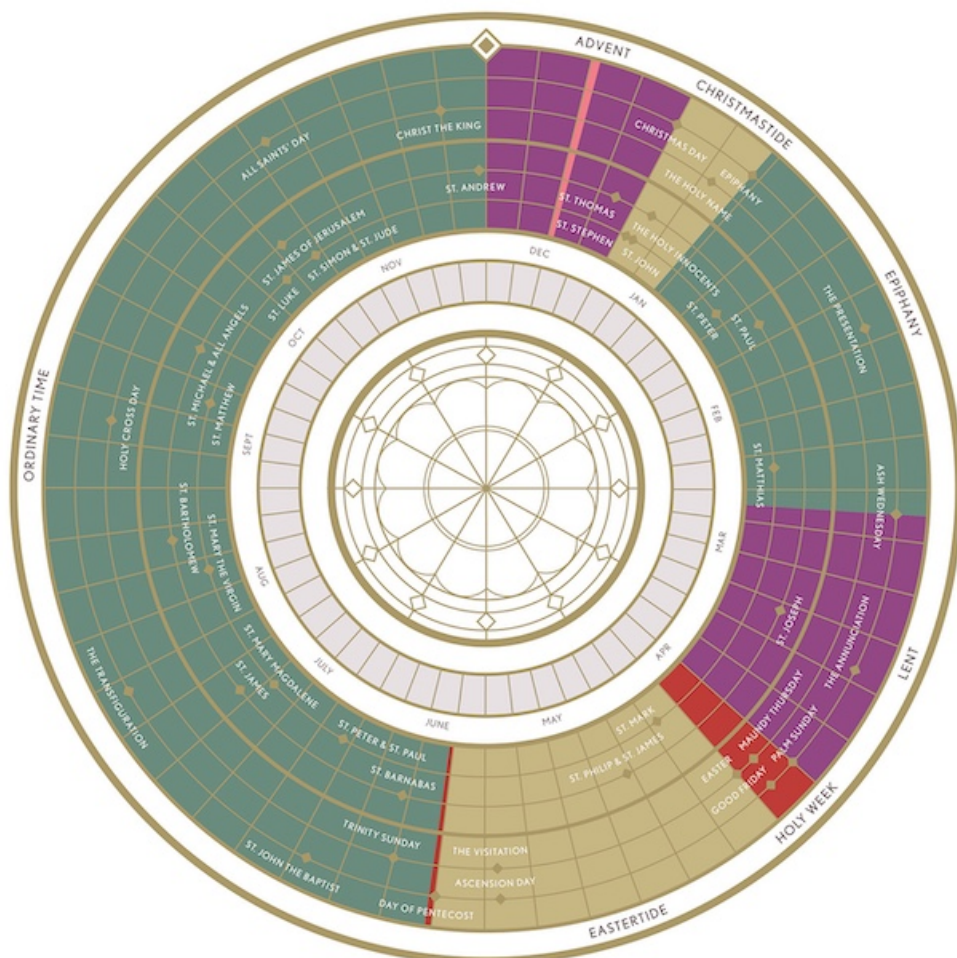


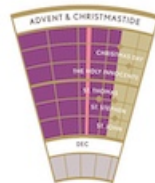
THE LITURGICAL YEAR



The liturgical year begins in Advent at the top of the circle.



The seasons of the church year are represented through the colors in the circle. They are approximate, as they change from year to year.



The feast days are on the outer portion of the circle. The inner circle shows the commemorations of the saints. The middle circle shows the fifty-two weeks of the modern monthly calendar year.

The Kingdom of God re-orders all of life, including the way we understand time. The liturgical year helps us grasp this reality. We normally order our time by the days and weeks of our modern calendars, beginning in January every year. In many liturgical traditions, the church calendar is ordered around the story of God's mission to the world in Jesus Christ. It begins in Advent and Christmas, culminates on Easter, and is completed during the long season of Ordinary Time. The rhythms of this annual cycle give all Christians who observe it the opportunity to inhabit this story of God's mission regularly in their churches and families.