

Christian Liturgical Calendar

1. Christian Liturgical Calendar represents the seasons of worship in the Christian church and what they mean. The Calendar is centered around two events, namely, the birth of Jesus and the resurrection of Jesus(Christmas and Easter). The church always celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ on December 25 of every year. However, the date of Easter changes.
2. Advent (comes from the Latin word is “adventus,” which means (the arrival of someone special or the Second Coming). The Greek word is “Parousia,” 2nd Coming. Advent begins the Liturgical year.
3. Advent is all about HOPE
4. In the Old Testament, the Prophets prophesied about the HOPE of a Savior coming.
5. In the New Testament, Christians have the HOPE of Christ’s second coming.
6. Advent is also a time of self-examination, expecting the second coming of Christ.
7. So Advent is a time of HOPE for the birth (Coming) of Jesus, but it is also the time for Christians to reflect on the HOPE of Jesus’ return in the rapture (Second Coming).
8. Advent begins on or about the Sunday nearest to November 30 and ends on December 24. Though Advent starts on different dates, it always ends on December 24.
9. The Church Liturgical Calendar is different from the calendar of the world. In the world, the seasons are the following: Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall (Autumn). The Liturgical Calendar seasons are the following: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Palm Sunday, Holy Week, Easter, Ascension Thursday, Pentecost Sunday, Ordinary/Normal Day (Day between Pentecost and Advent).
10. Epiphany (12 days after Christmas) is when the church believes the Wisemen (Magi) arrived to bring Jesus gifts. It is celebrated the first Sunday after January 1; the date varies from year to year. (However, some celebrate EPIPHANY only on January 6, which is 12 days after Christmas.)
11. Ash Wednesday (Start of Lent-40 days of fasting), Ascension Thursday (10 days before Pentecost Sunday) when the church commemorates Jesus departing Earth, Palm Sunday (Sunday before Easter), Holy Week (Week leading up to Easter), Good Friday (Commemorates the day of Jesus’ Crucifixion).
12. Not every day on the Liturgical Calendar is a holiday. These days are called regular days. After Pentecost, the ordinary days begin, until on or about the Sunday nearest to November 30. Advent Sunday rolls around again. REMEMBER: Advent begins the Liturgical Calendar!
13. Now how the church comes up with the day to celebrate Easter is a little complex. Let me begin with the following: Two times a year, the sun sets directly over the equator. One is

around September 22 (Autumnal Equinox), and the other one is on or between March 19-21 (Vernal Equinox). During these two events, day and night are approximately equal in length all over the Earth. In short: An equal division of night and day.

14. The Jews celebrate Passover during the Vernal Equinox. Remember: this can happen on the 19, 20, or 21 of March. However, the church acknowledges that the Vernal Equinox is only on March 21.
15. Therefore you have two acknowledgments of the Vernal Equinox. One is called the Astronomical Vernal Equinox, and the other is called the Ecclesiastical Vernal Equinox. This means the church celebrates Easter “The first Sunday on or after the first full moon after the ECCLESIASTICAL Vernal Equinox. Let me explain: The Sunday after the first full moon after March 21 of every year is Easter!
16. The earliest Easter will be celebrated on March 22, and the latest is April 25. There are 35 different dates Easter can fall on.
17. Now, once Easter is established, you count 46 days backward, which is considered the beginning of Lent.
18. Why is Lent considered 40 days of fasting when it is 46 days from Easter? Answer: Because it is 6 Sundays and NO ONE is required to fast on Sundays.
19. The last week of Lent begins the week called “Holy Week.”
20. Sunday is Considered “Palm Sunday”
21. Monday is called “Great and Holy Monday.”
22. Tuesday is called “Great and Holy Tuesday.”
23. Wednesday is called ‘Spy Wednesday’ (Day Judas makes a deal with Sanhedrin to betray Jesus)
24. Thursday is called “Maundy Thursday” (Commemorates foot washing and the last supper)
25. Friday is called “Good Friday” (Commemorates Jesus’ Crucifixion)
26. Saturday is called “Silent Saturday” (Reflection on the death of Jesus)
27. Sunday is called “Easter” (Resurrection from the grave)
28. The next day commemorated after Easter is ASCENSION THURSDAY (40 days after).
29. The next day after Ascension Thursday is PENTECOST (50 days after, Beginning of the church).
30. The next period after Pentecost is called NORMAL DAYS. This period goes until on or around the Sunday nearest November 30, which begins ADVENT!
31. This is the LITURGICAL CALENDAR: which reflects the main events of the church.