

Session 9: The Liturgical Year

HYMN: Tell Out, My Soul



Tell out, my soul, the greatness of
the Lord!

Unnumbered blessings give my spirit
voice,
reveal to me the promise of His
word.

In God, my Saviour, shall my heart
rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of
His name!

Make known His might, the deeds His
arm has done,

His mercy sure, from age to age the
same:

His holy name — the Lord, the
mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of
His might!

The hosts of angels lay their glory
by;

proud hearts and stubborn wills are
put to flight,

the hungry fed, the humble lifted
high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of
His word!

Firm is His promise, and His mercy,
sure.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of
the Lord

to children's children and for
evermore!

PRAYER:

See Eph 1:17-19.

Let us pray: O God,

grant us a spirit

of wisdom and insight

to know You clearly.

Enlighten our innermost vision,

that we may know the great hope

to which You have called us,

the wealth of Your glorious heritage

to be distributed

among the members of the Church,

and the immeasurable scope

of Your power

in us who believe.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Your Son,

Who lives and reigns with You

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

God, for ever and ever.

— Amen

READING:

Lv 23:1-3

A Reading from the Book of Leviticus

The Lord said to Moses,

"Speak to the Israelites

and tell them: The following

are the festivals of the Lord,

My feast days,

which you shall celebrate

with a solemn assembly.

"For six days work may be done;

but the seventh day

is the sabbath rest,

a day for sacred assembly,

on which you shall do no work.

The sabbath shall belong to the Lord

wherever you dwell."

The Word of the Lord

— *Thanks be to God*

IN BRIEF: WHAT THE CHURCH TEACHES

The Church celebrates

the saving work of Jesus

on certain days

throughout the course of the year.

She thus unfolds

the mysteries of our Redemption

and, in a way,

makes them present to us.

Indeed,

in referring to these mysteries

during the Mass,

she often uses the word "Today!"

Every Sunday,

for example,

she keeps the memory

of the Lord's Resurrection.

She also celebrates it once a year,

together with His Passion,

at Easter.

She celebrates the Incarnation

with a cycle of feasts:

the Annunciation, Christmas,

and the Epiphany. —

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In addition,
she keeps the memorials of martyrs
and other saints
who have suffered
and been glorified with Christ,
presenting them to us
as examples
who will draw us to God the Father
through Christ,
and asking God
for favours through their merits.

BIBLE READING

2 Sm 1-14

In your Bible reading next week,
you will see how David
displeased God
by committing adultery and murder,
and how God rebuked him
through the prophet Nathan.

And David repented, saying,
"I have sinned against the Lord."

Next week,
as we consider
"The Contradictions of Atheism,"
we will see how
our inborn sense of right and wrong,
like David's,
is compelling evidence
of God's existence.

LITURGICAL YEAR 2023-2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Nov 2023	20	21	22	23	24	25	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
26	27	28	29	30	Dec 1 2023	2	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	30	Jul 1 2024	2	3	4	5	6
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
31	Jan 1 2024	2	3	4	5	6	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	28	29	30	31	Aug 1 2024	2	3
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
28	29	30	31	Feb 1 2024	2	3	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	Sep 1 2024	2	3	4	5	6	7
25	26	27	28	29	Mar 1 2024	2	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	29	30	Oct 1 2024	2	3	4	5
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
31	Apr 1 2024	2	3	4	5	6	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	27	28	29	30	31	Nov 1 2024	2
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
28	29	30	May 1 2024	2	3	4	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	Dec 1 2024	2	3	4	5	6	7
26	27	28	29	30	31	Jun 1 2024	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
							15	16	17	18	19	20	21
							22	23	24	25	26	27	28

SUNDAY MASS CYCLE		
WEEKDAY MASS CYCLE		
MOVABLE FEASTS		
Easter		G
Holy Family		W
Epiphany		W
Ash Wednesday		P
Pentecost		R
Baptism of the Lord		W
Palm Sunday		R
Holy Thursday		W
Good Friday		R
Easter Vigil		G
Ascension of the Lord		W
Trinity Sunday		W
Corpus Christi		W
Sacred Heart of Jesus		W
Christ the King		W
Immaculate Conception	Dec 8	W
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Dec 12	W
Christmas	Dec 25	G
St. Stephen	Dec 26	R
St. John the Evangelist	Dec 27	W
Holy Innocents	Dec 28	R
Mary the Mother of God	Jan 1	W
Conversion of St. Paul	Jan 25	W
Presentation of the Lord	Feb 2	W
Chair of St. Peter	Feb 22	W
St. Joseph	Mar 19	W
Annunciation	Mar 25	W
St. Mark	Apr 25	R
Sts. Philip and James	May 3	R
St. Matthias	May 14	R
Visitation of Mary	May 31	W
Birth of St. John the Baptist	June 24	W
Sts. Peter and Paul	Jun 29	R
St. Thomas	Jul 3	R
St. James	Jul 25	R
Sts. Joachim and Anne	Jul 26	W
Transfiguration	Aug 6	W
St. Lawrence	Aug 10	R
Assumption of Mary	Aug 15	W
St. Bartholomew	Aug 24	R
Birth of Mary	Sep 8	W
Triumph of the Cross	Sep 14	W
St. Matthew	Sep 21	R
St. Jean de Brébuef, etc.	Sep 26	R
Sts. Michael, Gabriel, Raphael	Sep 29	W
St. Luke	Oct 18	R
Sts. Simon and Jude	Oct 28	R
All Saints	Nov 1	W
All Souls	Nov 2	W
Dedication of St. John Lateran	Nov 9	W
St. Andrew	Nov 30	R

The Liturgical Year

Introduction

This year

The Church's *liturgical year* is the annual cycle of seasons, solemnities, feasts, and memorials by which she commemorates events in the history of our salvation.

It helps us grow in our knowledge of Christ, as we immerse our lives "in the mystery of His death and resurrection," awaiting His return.

It is truly an "ongoing formation." Our life is not a random series of events, but "a precise itinerary" which, from one annual celebration of Christ's death and resurrection to the next, conforms us to Him, as we await His coming.¹

The Bible

In order to present to us as much of the Bible as possible, the Church has a three-year cycle of readings for the Sunday Masses: A, B, and C. For the weekday Masses, she has a two-year cycle: 1 and 2.

.....B
.....2

The seasons

The seasons of the Church's year are **Advent, Christmas, Ordinary Time, Lent, and Easter**. The Church's mood varies with the season and the colour of the priest's vestments (chasuble and stole) matches it.

There are two celebrations whose dates determine the rest of the liturgical year:

- **Christmas**, when we celebrate Christ's birth, which falls on December 25 every year. It is a *holy day of obligation*; that is, Catholics are obliged to attend Mass on that day no matter what the day of the week.
- **Easter**, when we celebrate Christ's Resurrection from the dead, which falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox.² Its date varies from March 22 to April 25.

..Dec 25 2023: *gold star*

.....*Mar 31: *gold star*

On both days, the priest wears gold or white vestments.

a) Advent (purple)

The first season of the liturgical year is Advent, from the Latin *adventus*, which means "a coming, approach, or arrival." It begins **four Sundays before Christmas** and ends with Christmas Eve. The Sundays in Advent are numbered 1-4.

Advent's theme is expectancy and preparation for Christ's coming. In the first two weeks, the focus is on His final coming at the end of the world; from December 17 on, it shifts to the coming celebration of His birth.

.....Dec 24 2023: 4
Dec 17 2023: 3
Dec 10 2023: 2
Dec 3 2023: 1
Dec 3 - Dec 24: *purple*

During Advent, the use of the organ is restricted, the *Gloria* is not said, and there are no flowers in the sanctuary.

The Third Sunday of Advent is called *Gaudete* Sunday, from the Latin for the first word of its Entrance Antiphon: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near."³ On this day, the priest may wear rose vestments.

Most churches have an Advent wreath, a band or circle of green foliage surrounding four candles, one for each of the

¹ See Pope Francis: *Desiderio Desideravi*, 64.

² The spring equinox is the day in the spring when night and day have equal lengths: about March 21.

³ Phil 4:4,5

Sundays. Usually, three are purple and one rose.

Unlike the secular world, the Church does not celebrate Christmas before December 25. Rather, she prepares for Christ's birth, recalling the words of Isaiah, who prophesied the Messiah's coming: "Prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!"⁴

Catholics do penance, amend their lives, and try to get to Confession. (Many parishes schedule extra times.)

b) Christmas (white)

The word "Christmas" comes from the Anglo-Saxon *Christes Maesse*, "Christ's Mass."⁵ Christmas is the first of the Church's three major solemnities. It begins the evening before with a *vigil* and it includes the seven days which follow, for a total of eight days, called its *octave*.

The Christmas season begins with the vigil of Christmas and lasts until the **Baptism of the Lord**,⁶ celebrated the Sunday after January 6. If this Sunday falls between January 2 and January 8 inclusive, the Baptism of the Lord is celebrated the next day, Monday.

.....*Jan 8: B

During the Christmas season, the Church celebrates Christ's birth. Her mood is joyful: the organ is used, the *Gloria* is said on Sunday, and the sanctuary is decorated with flowers.

c) Ordinary Time (green)

The day after the Baptism of the Lord, the Church enters Ordinary Time. "Ordinary" comes from the Latin *ordinis* ("series, line, row, order") and denotes the numbered Sundays outside the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter.

Ordinary Time is divided into two parts, separated by the Seasons of Lent and Easter. Accordingly, we will talk about Lent and Easter first and then come back to Ordinary Time.

d) Lent (purple)

"Lent" comes from the Anglo-Saxon *lengten*, which meant "spring."⁷ Lent starts with **Ash Wednesday**, the Wednesday before the sixth Sunday before Easter, and it ends the day before Easter. The Sundays in Lent are numbered 1-6.

.....Mar 24: 6

Lent is a forty-day season of penitence associated with Christ's forty-day fast in the desert before He began His public teaching. It comprises four days in the first week plus six days in each of the six weeks that follow. (The Sundays are not days of penitence.)

Mar 17: 5

Mar 10: 4

Mar 3: 3

Feb 25: 2

Feb 18: 1

*Feb 14: A

On Ash Wednesday, the priest burns the palms distributed the previous Lent and uses the ashes to mark our foreheads, saying, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return," or "Repent, and believe in the Gospel." Depending on the date of Easter, Ash Wednesday can be as early as February 4 and as late as March 11.

...Feb 14 - Mar 30: purple

During Lent, we do penance for sin in preparation for Easter. In particular, we pray, fast, and give alms. Fasting means eating less; on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday,

⁴ Is 40:3

⁵ John Hardon: *Modern Catholic Dictionary*, "Christmas"

⁶ See Mt 3:13-17.

⁷ John Hardon: *Modern Catholic Dictionary*, "Lent"

("days of fast and abstinence") we eat *much* less and abstain from meat. (In fact, we are supposed to abstain from meat every Friday.⁸ If that would cause real difficulty, we may eat meat, but we must substitute some act of charity.) Giving alms means making donations.

During Lent, there are no flowers in the church, the use of the organ is restricted, and the *Gloria* is not said. The Church's mood is sorrow for sin and a desire to prepare for the commemoration of the central events of our salvation.

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is called *Laetare* Sunday, from the Latin for the first word of its Entrance Antiphon: "Rejoice, O Jerusalem." On this day, the priest may wear rose vestments.

From the Fifth Sunday of Lent until the Easter Vigil, the statues, pictures, and crosses in the church are hidden with purple cloth so that we can focus totally on Christ.

Holy Week, the last week of Lent, is the central part of the Church's year.⁹ It begins the Sunday before Easter, called **Palm or Passion Sunday**, when we commemorate Christ's

triumphal entry into Jerusalem.¹⁰ On that day the priest wears red. Before Mass, he blesses palm branches and distributes them; we take them home, fold them into crosses, and keep them in a place of honour until the following Ash Wednesday. On Palm Sunday, we hear the "long Gospel": the story of Christ's arrest, torture, and death.¹¹

.....*Mar 24: red dot

.....Mar 24 - Mar 30:
dark purple

With Palm Sunday, the Church enters a period of mourning for Christ's sufferings. On the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday mornings, she celebrates Mass as usual, but on Holy Thursday, there is no early morning Mass anywhere in the Church. However, every bishop celebrates the **Chrism Mass** with his diocesan priests, marking their unity. He also blesses the sacred oils, which include chrism, to be used throughout the diocese during the coming year. Like any Mass, the Chrism Mass is open to everyone.

The **Sacred Triduum**, or sacred "three days," begins with the Mass of the Lord's Supper Holy Thursday evening. When Christ ate this supper with His apostles, He was celebrating the Jewish Passover meal, which includes drinking wine. However, He declared that the wine was "His Blood," the Blood of a "new covenant" between God and humans, and He told them to "do this in memory" of Him. Thus He instituted both the priesthood and the Mass.¹²

.....*Mar 28: yellow dot

At the Mass of the Lord's Supper, therefore, the Church rejoices. The priest wears white or gold, not purple; there are flowers on the altar; and the *Gloria* is sung or said for the first time in Lent, with bells rung for the first few bars.

After His last supper, Jesus "rose from the meal and took off His cloak. He picked up a towel and tied it around Himself. Then He poured water into a basin and began to wash His disciples' feet and dry them with the towel." When He had finished, He explained that what He had done was

8 See "Keeping Friday" on cccb.ca.

9 See the talk on "Holy Week."

10 See Jn 12:12-15.

11 In Year A, Mt 26:14 - 27:66; in Year B, Mk 14:1 - 15:47; in Year C, Lk 22:14 - 23:56.

12 See the talk on "Mass: Sacrament and Sacrifice."

to give us an example. "If I washed your feet — I who am 'Teacher' and 'Lord,'" He said, "then you must wash each others' feet."¹³ Accordingly, during the Mass of the Lord's Supper, the priest washes the feet of selected parishioners.

The Hosts distributed in Communion are all consecrated at this Mass, not taken from the tabernacle. Often, we are invited to receive Christ's Body and Blood *under both species*: that is, under the appearance of bread and under the appearance of wine.

At this Mass, the priest consecrates enough Hosts for the next day, for there will be no Mass on Good Friday. At the end of the Mass, he removes all Hosts from the tabernacle and carries the Blessed Sacrament around the church in procession for us to adore. Traditionally, the choir sings the hymn *Pange Lingua* ("Sing, my Tongue"),¹⁴ which describes the institution of the Eucharist. At the end of the procession, the priest deposits the Blessed Sacrament in a tabernacle on a side altar, called the Altar of Repose, where it remains until midnight for us to adore.

At the end of His last supper, Christ and His apostles "walked out to the Mount of Olives."¹⁵ Now Jesus' agony began. Accordingly, the Church's mood changes abruptly at the end of the Mass of the Lord's Supper. From the beginning of the *Gloria*, the organ has been turned off. Now the flowers are removed, the altar is stripped, and the tabernacle door is left wide open.

The next day is **Good Friday**, the day Christ died, a day of intense mourning. No Mass is celebrated. The Church is empty of the Blessed Sacrament. There is no holy water in the fountains.*Mar 29: red dot

However, we meet at 3:00 pm, the hour when Jesus died,¹⁶ to commemorate His death. The mood is one of intense sadness. The priest, who wears red vestments, begins by prostrating himself before the empty sanctuary. The service has four parts: the Liturgy of the Word, which includes St. John's account of the Passion;¹⁷ special General Intercessions; the veneration of the cross, whose purple covering is now removed; and Holy Communion, for which the altar is covered with a cloth and the Blessed Sacrament is brought back into the church. At the end of the service, the altar is stripped again and the church left empty.

There is no morning Mass on Holy Saturday. Christ is in the tomb. The entire Church mourns. Nothing happens except, perhaps, for the Stations of the Cross, until the Easter Vigil on Saturday night.

e) Easter Season (white)

Easter is the second of the Church's three major solemnities. Like Christmas, it has a vigil and an octave.

The **Easter Vigil** is the most solemn of all vigils. It starts after dark¹⁸ on Holy Saturday, with all the church's lights*Mar 30: V

13 Jn 13:3-15

14 See the talk on "Mass: Sacrament and Sacrifice," Appendix 4.

15 Mt 26:30

16 See Mt 27:45-50.

17 Jn 18:1 - 19:42

18 Defined to be 9:00 pm for the Vancouver Archdiocese.

out. Then the new fire and the Paschal candle are lighted and we light our own small candles from it. Then, by candle-light, the *Exsultet* is sung: "Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels! Exult, all creation around God's throne! Jesus Christ, our King, has risen!"

The Liturgy of the Word, which follows, comprises seven Readings describing what God did for His people in the Old Covenant. Then comes the triumphal singing of the *Gloria*, heard only once since Ash Wednesday, accompanied by the organ and the ringing of bells. Flowers are carried in, the purple coverings are removed, and the church is transformed. After the next Reading, the priest intones the solemn Easter *Alleluia* and the mood becomes one of ecstasy. The rest of the Mass follows as usual, except that we renew our baptismal promises (as we do at all the Easter Masses).

The Easter Season begins with the Easter Vigil and lasts until Pentecost Sunday, the eighth Sunday from Easter (counting Easter as the first). Pentecost is the day when the Holy Spirit descended on the apostles,¹⁹ so the priest wears red. It is the third of the Church's three most prominent solemnities. Like Christmas and Easter, it has a vigil, but it does not have an octave. The Sundays between Easter and Pentecost are numbered 2-7.

During the entire Easter Season, the Church celebrates the Resurrection of Christ. Her mood is one of overwhelming joy: the organ is used, the *Gloria* is said on Sunday, and the sanctuary is decorated with flowers.

.....Apr 7: 2
Apr 14: 3
Apr 21: 4
Apr 28: 5
May 5: 6
May 12: 7
*May 19: P

f) Ordinary Time (green)

Starting with the Baptism of the Lord, the Church enters Ordinary Time, which is divided into two. The first part ends with Ash Wednesday.

The Sundays in this part of Ordinary Time are numbered as follows: counting the Baptism of the Lord (or, if it is a Monday, the day before) as the first, the following Sundays are numbered from two on, up to Ash Wednesday.

The second part of Ordinary Time begins with Pentecost and ends on the last day of the liturgical year, namely the day before the next liturgical year begins. (The first day of the next liturgical year is the fourth Sunday before the next Christmas.)

The Sundays in this part of Ordinary Time are numbered as follows: counting the last Sunday of the liturgical year as the thirty-fourth Sunday, the preceding Sundays are numbered in reverse order all the way back to Pentecost.

(Notice that the numbers may not be consecutive between the end of the first part of Ordinary Time and the beginning of the second part.)

Since the dates of Ash Wednesday and Pentecost both depend on the date of Easter, which is variable, the length of each part of Ordinary Time is also variable. However, together, the two parts always include 33 or 34 Sundays (if you count the Baptism of the Lord and Pentecost). On some of the numbered Sundays, as you will see, special solemnities or feasts are celebrated.

.....Jan 8 - Feb 13: green

.....Jan 14: 2
Jan 21: 3
etc.
Feb 11: 6

.....Dec 22 2024: 4
Dec 15 2024: 3
Dec 8 2024: 2
Dec 1 2024: 1

May 19 - Dec 30: green

.....Nov 24 2024: 34
Nov 17 2024: 33
Nov 10 2024: 32
etc.
May 26: 8

19 See Acts 2:1-13.

During Ordinary Time, the Church does not concentrate on any particular aspect of Christ. The priest wears green vestments and the Church is not particularly joyful, repentant, expectant, or sorrowful. The organ is used, the *Gloria* is said on Sunday, and the sanctuary is decorated with flowers. Compared to the others, this season of the Church's year is "ordinary" in the usual English meaning of the word.

* * * * *

Sundays

Sundays are an important part of the Church's liturgical year. The first Christians soon replaced Saturday, the Jewish sabbath,²⁰ with Sunday, the first day of the week, in order to commemorate Christ's Resurrection and the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. However, Sunday retained the original purpose of the Jewish Sabbath: to recall the lordship of God, Who rested on the seventh day of creation,²¹ and to anticipate our eternal rest with God in Heaven.²² Catholics are required by the Church to "keep the Sabbath day holy"²³ by attending Mass and resting from servile work.

Sunday is always a day of celebration. For example, the *Gloria* is always said (except during Advent and Lent) and Sundays are not included in Lent's forty days. Sunday is so important that if other feasts and solemnities fall on a Sunday, they are not observed "unless they be truly of the greatest importance," for Sunday is "the foundation and centre of the whole liturgical year."²⁴

Other special days

Throughout the seasons there are various other days on which the Church commemorates events in the lives of Christ and His mother or honours the angels and saints. Usually, a saint is honoured on the day of his death — *dies natalis*, the day of his birth into Heaven. These celebrations are often called collectively *feasts*, but they are actually divided²⁵ into *solemnities*, *feasts*, *prescribed memorials*, and *optional memorials*. Days with no special ritual rank are called *ferial* days, or weekdays.

The priest wears red for the feasts of martyrs and white for feasts of our Lord, our Lady, angels, and saints who were not martyrs.

a) Solemnities

- **Immaculate Conception** (Dec 8)
 - Mary's preservation, from the first moment of her existence, from the negative effects of the original sin, through the saving actions of Christ.²⁶
- **Mary the Mother of God** (Jan 1)
 - the only *holy day of obligation* (when Catholics must attend Mass) in Canada besides Christmas Day.²⁷

.....Dec 8: yellow dot

.....yellow dot

20 See Acts 20:7, 1 Cor 16:2.

21 See Gn 2:3.

22 See the talk on "The First Three Commandments."

23 The Third Commandment. See Ex 20:8-11; Lv 23:3; Dt 5:12-15.

24 Constitution on the Liturgy, V, 106

25 Since the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965).

26 See the talk on "Mary and Joseph."

27 See the talk on "Mary and Joseph."

- **Epiphany** (Sunday between Jan 2 and Jan 8 inclusive)*Jan 7: *yellow dot*
 - first "manifestation" (Greek: *epiphaneia*) of Christ to Gentiles: the wise men, or Magi.²⁸ (Formerly observed January 6, the "twelfth night" after Christmas.)
- **St. Joseph** (Mar 19)*yellow dot*
 - husband of Mary and legal father of Jesus.²⁹
- **Annunciation** (Mar 25 → Apr 8)*yellow dot*
 - "announcement" by the angel Gabriel to Mary that God had chosen her to be His Son's mother.³⁰
- **Ascension of the Lord** (seventh Sunday of Easter)³¹*May 12: *yellow dot*
- **Trinity Sunday** (Sunday after Pentecost)*May 26: *yellow dot*
 - the celebration of God's "tri-unity."³²
- **Corpus Christi** (Sunday after Trinity Sunday)*Jun 2: *yellow dot*
 - celebration of the Holy Eucharist ("Body of Christ")³³
- **Birth of John the Baptist** (Jun 24)³⁴*yellow dot*
- **Sacred Heart of Jesus** (Friday after Corpus Christi)*Jun 7: *yellow dot*
- **Sts. Peter and Paul** (Jun 29)*red dot*
- **Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary** (Aug 15)*yellow dot*
 - God's taking up of Mary, body and soul, to Heaven.³⁵
- **All Saints** (Nov 1)*yellow dot*
 - commemoration of those already with God in Heaven.³⁶
- **All Souls** (Nov 2)*yellow dot*
 - commemoration of "the souls in Purgatory."³⁷ The priest usually wears white, but may wear purple or black.
- **Christ the King** (the last Sunday of the liturgical year)*Nov 24: *yellow dot*

Feasts

- **St. Andrew** (Nov 30)*red dot*
 - apostle
- **Our Lady of Guadalupe**³⁸ (Dec 12 2023)*yellow dot*
- **Holy Family** (Sunday between Dec 25 and Jan 1, if there is one; otherwise Dec 30)*Dec 31: *yellow dot*
 - the family comprising Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
- **St. Stephen** (Dec 26)*red dot*
 - the first martyr³⁹
- **St. John the Evangelist** (Dec 27)*yellow dot*
 - apostle, author of the Fourth Gospel and the Book of Revelation
- **Holy Innocents** (Dec 28) *red dot*
 - the male children younger than two whom Herod the Great murdered in an attempt to kill the Child Jesus⁴⁰
- **Conversion of St. Paul** (Jan 25)⁴¹ *yellow dot*
- **Presentation of the Lord** (Feb 2)⁴²*yellow dot*

28 See Mt 2:1-12.

29 See Mt 1:18-25, 2:13-15, 19-23; Lk 1:27, 2:4-5, 16, 22-24, 3:23.

30 See Lk 1:26-38. Also see the talk on "The History of Our Salvation."

31 See Acts 1:1-11. Also see the talk on "The History of Our Salvation."

32 See the talk on "God: Unity and Trinity."

33 See the talk on "Mass: Sacrament and Sacrifice."

34 See Lk 1.

35 See the talk on "Mary and Joseph."

36 See the talk on "The Communion Among the Saints in the Body of Christ."

37 See the talks on "The Communion Among the Saints in the Body of Christ" and "Death and the End of the World."

38 A memorial for the whole Church, but a feast for the Church in Canada because Our Lady of Guadalupe is patroness of the Americas.

39 See Acts 6, 7.

40 See Mt 2:13-18.

41 See Acts 9:1-30.

42 See Lk 2:41-52.

- **Chair of St. Peter the Apostle** (Feb 22)yellow dot
 - celebration of the unity symbolized by St. Peter⁴³
- **St. Mark** (Apr 25)red dot
 - evangelist, author of the Second Gospel
- **Sts. Philip and James** (May 3)red dot
 - apostles. James ("the Less") is the son of Alpheus.⁴⁴
- **St. Matthias** (May 14)red dot
 - the apostle elected to take Judas' place.⁴⁵
- **Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary** (May 31)yellow dot
 - Mary's visit to Elizabeth after the Annunciation.⁴⁶
- **St. Thomas** (Jul 3)red dot
 - apostle
- **St. Mary Magdalene** (Jul 22)yellow dot
 - to whom Jesus appeared after His Resurrection⁴⁷
- **St. James** (Jul 25)red dot
 - apostle. James ("the Greater") is the son of Zebedee.⁴⁸
- **Sts. Joachim and Anne**⁴⁹ (Jul 26)yellow dot
 - parents of Mary, grandparents of Jesus
- **Transfiguration of the Lord** (Aug 6)⁵⁰yellow dot
- **St. Lawrence** (Aug 10)red dot
 - early deacon of Rome
- **St. Bartholomew** (Aug 24)red dot
 - apostle
- **Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary** (Sep 8)Sunday; omitted
- **Exaltation of the Holy Cross** (Sep 14)yellow dot
- **St. Matthew** (Sep 21)red dot
 - apostle and evangelist, author of the First Gospel
- **Sts. Jean de Brébeuf, Isaac Jogues, etc.**⁵¹ (Sep 26)red dot
 - early Canadian martyrs
- **Sts. Michael,**⁵² **Gabriel,**⁵³ **and Raphael**⁵⁴ (Sep 29)Sunday; omitted
 - archangels
- **St. Luke** (Oct 18)red dot
 - evangelist, author of the Third Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles
- **Sts. Simon and Jude** (Oct 28)red dot
 - apostles
- **Dedication of St. John Lateran** (Nov 9)yellow dot
 - dedication of the Pope's own cathedral in Rome.⁵⁵

43 See the talk on "What is the Catholic Church?"

44 See Mt 10:3.

45 See Acts 1:15-26.

46 See Luke 1:34-66. Also see the talk on "Mary and Joseph."

47 See Jn 20:1-2, 11-18.

48 See Mt 10:2.

49 A memorial for the whole Church, but a feast for the Church in Canada because Ste. Anne is a secondary patroness of Canada.

50 See Mt 17:1-8.

51 A memorial for the whole Church, but a feast for the Church in Canada because these martyrs are secondary patrons of Canada.

52 See Dn 12:1; Jdt 1:9; Rv 12:7.

53 See Lk 1:19, 26.

54 See Tb 12:11-22.

55 See the talk on "What is the Catholic Church?"