



# Understanding the Liturgical Colors

In the liturgical calendar, the color for each day corresponds to that day's main liturgical celebration, even though Optional Memorials (perhaps with a different color) might be chosen instead. The four main colors shown are:

 **White** – Christmas Time and Easter Time; celebrations of the Lord (except of his Passion), of Mary, of the Angels, and of Saints who were not Martyrs; solemnities of the Most Holy Trinity (Sun. after Pentecost), of All Saints (Nov. 1), and of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist (June 24); feasts of the Conversion of St. Paul (Jan. 25), of the Chair of St. Peter (Feb. 22), and of St. John (Dec. 27); also permitted in the United States at Masses for the Dead

 **Red** – Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Pentecost Sunday; celebrations of the Lord's Passion, of Apostles, and of Evangelists; celebrations of Martyrs

 **Green** – Ordinary Time

 **Violet** – Advent and Lent; Masses for the Dead

Other liturgical colors not represented on this calendar include **rose** (Third Sun. of Advent and Fourth Sun. of Lent), **black** (Masses for the Dead), and **gold or silver** (permitted in the United States for more solemn occasions).