

The Liturgical Year: The Proper of the Time

Two large cycles, each with preparation and a following period variable in length

<i>Preparation</i>	Advent (4 sundays)
<i>Central feast</i> <i>Period of rejoicing</i>	Christmas (Dec. 25) St. Stephen St. John the Evangelist Holy Innocents 1st (and 2d, depending) Sunday after Christmas octave of (8 days after) Christmas (= Circumcision) Sundays after Christmas (variable)
<i>Closing feast</i> <i>Variable, “green” period</i>	Epiphany (Jan 6) Sundays after Epiphany (variable) ...
<i>Preparation</i> <i>(“pre-Lent”)</i> <i>Beginning of Lent</i>	Septuagesima Sunday Sexagesima Sunday Quinquagesima Sunday Ash Wednesday Lent (6 Sundays and all weekdays have masses) Palm Sunday (=Lent 6, beginning of Holy Week) Maundy Thursday Good Friday Holy Saturday
<i>Central feast</i> <i>Period of rejoicing</i>	Easter (date varies) Easter week Sundays after Easter Ascension day (Thursday, 40 days after Easter) Sunday after Ascension
<i>Closing feast</i> <i>Variable, “green” period</i>	Pentecost (50 days, with octave) Sundays after Pentecost ... (until Advent)