

# ENTERING INTO THE CHURCH YEAR IN OUR HOMES

## *Beginning with Advent*

### WHAT IS THE CHURCH YEAR?

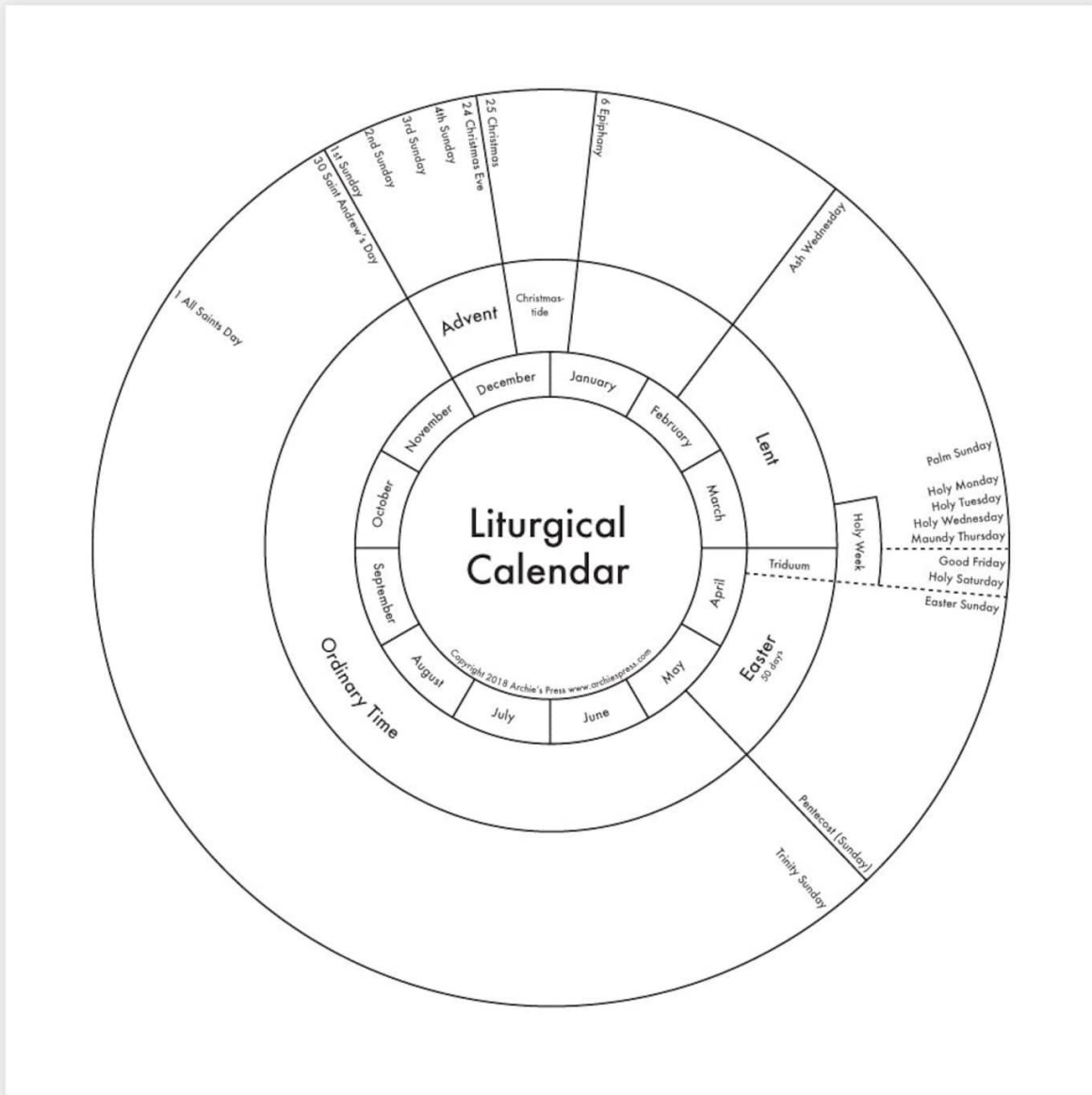
1. The church year is an annual calendar of feasts and fasts, seasons and scriptures, that help us order our time and lives around Jesus and his kingdom.
2. It began with the weekly celebration of Jesus' resurrection, a weekly Friday fast for his death, then yearly feasts and fasts for the resurrection, birth, and death of Jesus, then with seasons of preparation for those special days.
  - a. Much of the church calendar was adapted from the Jewish calendar.
  - b. At the council of Nicea in 325 CE, church leaders from around the known world aligned their celebrations of Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Advent, and Easter so they could celebrate them together.
3. The shape of the church year (see reverse side)
  - a. The first half of the church year focuses on the life of Jesus (Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week, Eastertide, Ascension)
  - b. The second half of the church year focuses on the life of Jesus' church (Pentecost, Trinity Sunday, All Saints, Christ the King)
  - c. Each season has different colors and themes

### HOW DOES IT SHAPE OUR LIFE IN GOD?

1. The church year retells the story of Jesus and his church so we can participate in it and be transformed by it.
  - a. "I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead." — Philipians 3:10-11
  - b. "The liturgical calendar reminds us that we are people who live by a different story...in a different story." — Tish Harrison Warner, *Liturgy of the Ordinary*
  - c. You become what you celebrate. We celebrate the life of Jesus and the values of his kingdom (sacrifice, forgiveness, redemption, etc.)
2. We practice waiting in hope for restoration at the end of time instead of "rushing against time or killing time." Aaron Damiani, *Earth Filled with Heaven*
3. We set aside and enter into sacred space and sacred time to meet with Jesus.

### HOW CAN WE ENTER INTO IT IN OUR HOMES?

1. Connect your household worship with your Sunday worship
2. Create physical reminders and space in our homes
3. Incorporate the seasons, prayers, Scriptures, practices in our personal or household devotion.



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