

Colors of the Church Year and Seasonal Dates

The Dates of the Church Year, 2007-2008

Colors		Season	Dates	Alternate	
Purple		Advent	Dec 2-Dec 15	Dk. Blue	Blue
Purple		3rd Wk of Advent	Dec 16-Dec 22	Rose	
Purple		Advent	Dec 23	Dk. Blue	Blue
Purple		Christmas Eve	Dec 24	Dk. Blue	Blue
White	Gold	Christmas	Dec 25-Jan 5	White	Yellow
White	Gold	Epiphany	Jan 6	White	Yellow
Green		After Epiphany	Jan 7-Feb 2	Lt. Green	
White	Gold	Transfiguration	Feb 3-5	White	Yellow
Purple		Ash Wednesday	Feb 6	Gray	
Purple		Ash Wed/Lent	Feb 6-Mar 22	Violet	
Purple		Maundy Thursday	Mar 20	Red*	
Purple	Black	Good Friday	Mar 21	Black	
Black		Holy Saturday	Mar 22	No Colors	
White	Gold	Easter	Mar 23	White	Yellow
White	Gold	Eastertide	Mar 24-Apr 30	Red*	
White	Gold	Ascension Day	May 1	White	Yellow
White	Gold	Eastertide	May 2-May 10	Red*	
Red		Pentecost Sunday*	May 11--17	Red	Gold
White	Gold	Trinity Sunday	May 18-24	Red*	
Green		Ordinary Time	May 25-Oct 31	Lt. Green	Bronze
				Aqua	Olive
Red*		All Saints Day or Sunday	Nov 1 or next Sunday	White	Gold
Green		Ordinary Time	Nov 2-22	Lt. Green	Bronze
				Aqua	Olive
White	Gold	Christ the King	Nov 23-29	White	Yellow

* In some churches, red is used only on Pentecost Sunday.

Metallic Silver is sometimes used for or with white, especially at Easter and Christmas. Likewise Metallic Gold can be used for gold or yellow. While some traditions (Catholic, for example) still use for purple for Advent, there is a trend to use a bluish violet for Advent and deep red violet for Lent.

In most traditions, the sanctuary cross is draped in color only during Lent (purple), Good Friday (black), and Easter (white). Some churches leave white on the cross through Eastertide, drape the cross in red for Pentecost Sunday, and then leave the cross undraped until the beginning of Lent the next year. Usually the cross is not decorated during Advent, Christmas, or Epiphany both because the focus is not yet on the cross, and since the Greens of Advent and the other symbols of the Christmas season carry the visual message.