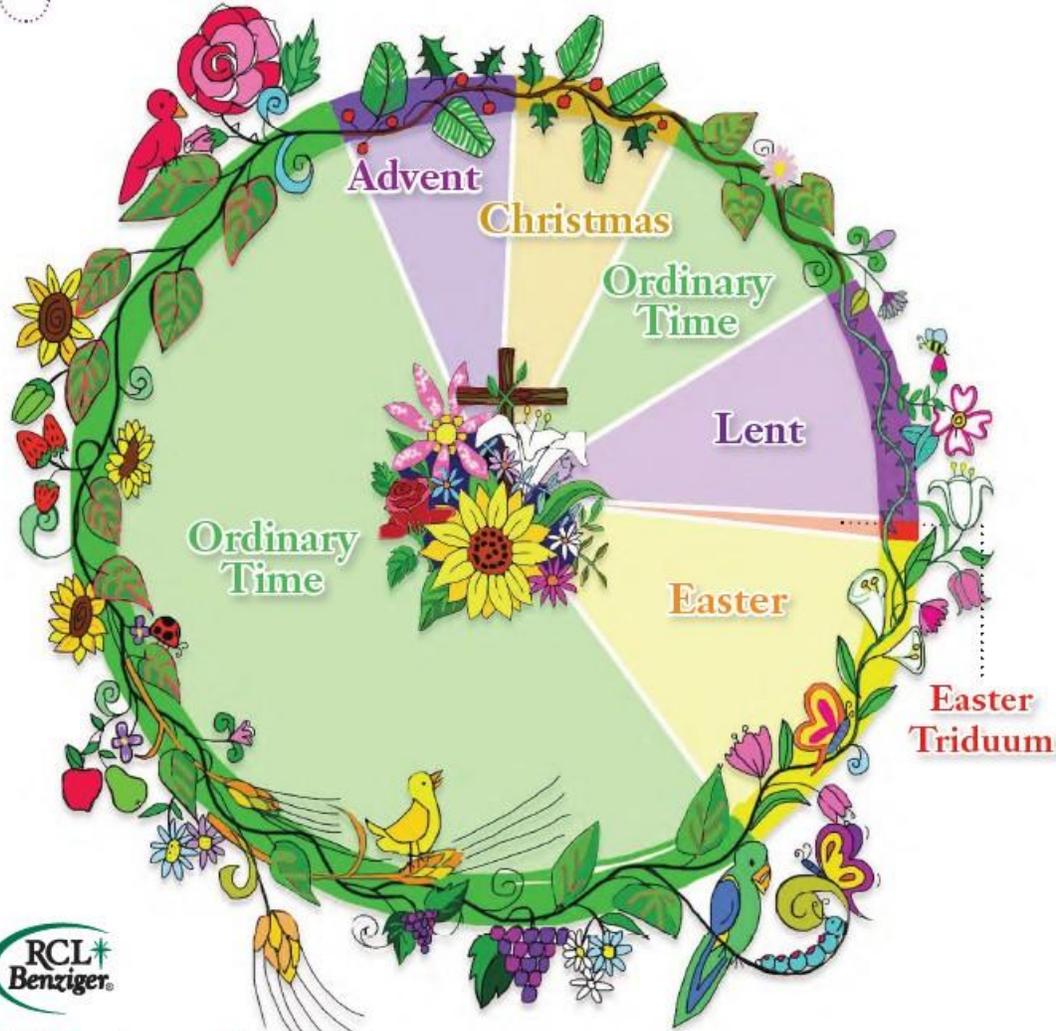


THE  
*Liturgical*  
YEAR  
CALENDAR



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Advent is the time when we remember the long time from Adam and Eve, when people lost the connection to God until the time of Jesus, when he came to us.

## It's So Hard to WAIT!

Don't you just hate to wait?  
Think of all the special things  
that you have waited for this year:  
your summer vacation,  
the first day of school,  
your class picnic.

Remember how much fun you had  
when that special day arrived?

This week you will begin  
the long wait for Christmas.

The whole world is waiting  
for Christmas to come.

The Church has a special way  
to get ready for Christmas.

This special way is called Advent.

Remember the story of the angel  
who came to ask Mary  
to be the mother of Jesus?  
Mary said YES right away.  
But she had to wait nine months  
for Jesus to come.

Mary used her waiting time  
to get ready for her special baby.

The Church uses Advent  
to get ready for Christmas —  
the birthday of Mary's special Son.



## Prayer for Patience

Using the  
key below,  
can you decode  
this little  
prayer for  
patience?



P Z M L R Q J Z B  
G Z J M J Y N M W  
V R D R X Q Z M R M L R  
X J Q M L T Z C W P C W K Q  
O W Y L R D U  
B R M W N R M Q R Z T C



A B C D E F G H I J K L M  
Z M Y L X K W J V I U H T  
N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z  
G S F R E Q D P C O B N A



## Mary, the Mother of Jesus

God chose Mary to be an important part of his plan of Salvation. Mary's role in God's plan is so special that she is free from all sin, from the first moment of her conception and throughout her whole life. The Church calls Mary's freedom from Original Sin the Immaculate Conception.

God sent the angel Gabriel to tell Mary that she was chosen by God to be the mother of his Son. Even though she did not fully understand what it would mean to be the mother of Jesus, Mary trusted in God. She said, *"May it be done to me according to your word"* (Luke 1:38). Mary became Jesus' mother through the power of the Holy Spirit.

We believe that the Virgin Mary is the Mother of God and is our mother, too. As Jesus was dying on the cross, he gave us Mary to help us grow in faith. As she stood at the foot of the cross with his beloved disciple, Jesus said to John the disciple, *"Behold, your mother"* (John 19:27).

Mary is the greatest Saint because of her perfect faith. She completely trusted in God. Like Mary, we too can love and obey God and trust in his plan for us. We can be followers of Jesus like our Blessed Mother. By knowing, loving, and serving God, we become signs of God's grace.

Saints are holy people whose love for God is stronger than their love for anything or anyone else. All the Saints loved and served God in everything they did. They knew they needed grace to help them follow Jesus. The Saints lived holy lives on Earth. Now they live with God in Heaven. We are all called to be saints.



The Crucifixion  
Hendrick Krock  
(1677-1738 Danish)



Why is Mary an important part of God's plan of Salvation?



The Annunciation  
by Bartolome Esteban Murillo

# Titles of Jesus

Begin at "Start." Get to the end of the maze through openings of outlined letters. The dotted line begins the path for you!

Light of the World

Emmanuel

Wonderful

Morning Star

King of Kings

Prince of Peace

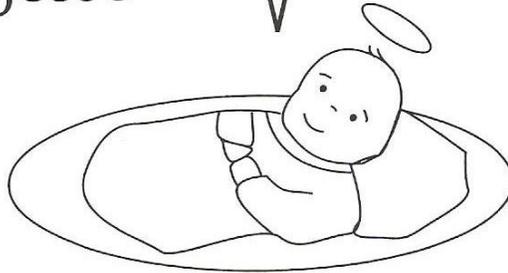
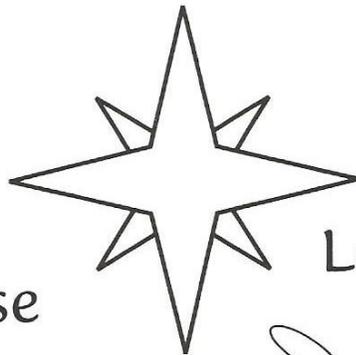
Root of Jesse

Lord of Lords

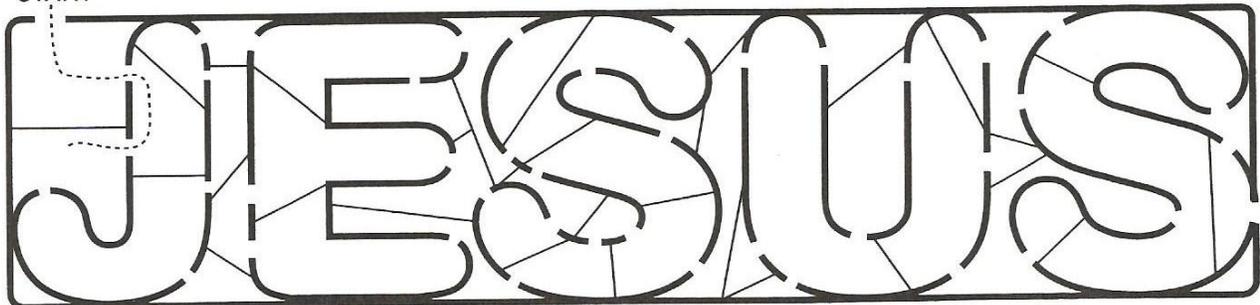
Dayspring

Counselor

Savior



START



END

# *Blessing of the* ADVENT WREATH

## BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

**Prayer:**

Loving God,  
your Son, Jesus Christ,  
is the Light of the world.

Bless us as we light this wreath  
and enter into the season of Advent.

May its candles  
remind us to share Christ's light  
through our words and deeds.

Amen.

*(Light the first candle of the  
Advent wreath.)*



## CONCLUDING RITES

**Blessing:**

*Make the sign of the cross as you say the following:*

Now may Jesus, the Light of the world,  
guide our words and actions  
and fill our hearts with peace.  
Amen.

**Concluding Song:** *See the Gathering Song suggestions.*

*Continue to light the candles on the Advent wreath as you gather throughout the season of Advent. Use the Blessing Prayer (above) as your wreath-lighting prayer, modifying the fifth line of the prayer to read "and celebrate the season of Advent." The Intercessions and concluding Blessing are also appropriate for the entire season of Advent.*

Fill each ornament with something you learned or know about Jesus. You could use the names of Jesus, the stories of Jesus, or even the sacraments Jesus gave us.

