

# Liturgical Colors

The different colors used throughout the liturgical year for vestments and decorations in the church are symbols that remind us of what we are celebrating.

**White:** symbolizes purity, joy, innocence, holiness, and glory. It is used during the Christmas and Easter seasons. It is also used for feasts and commemorations of Christ (other than the Passion) and for feasts and memorials of Mary, the angels, and saints who were not martyrs. It may be used for Masses for the dead.

**Red:** symbolizes fire and blood. It is used for celebrations of the Passion, Palm Sunday, Good Friday, for Pentecost, for feasts of the Apostles and evangelists, and for feasts of martyrs.

**Green:** symbolizes life and hope. It is used for days that are not feasts during Ordinary Time (the time after Epiphany up to Ash Wednesday and after Pentecost up to Advent).

**Purple:** symbolizes penitence and sorrow. It is used during the penitential seasons of Advent and Lent. It may also be used for Masses for the dead.

**Rose:** symbolizes a more joyful celebration. It is used on Gaudete Sunday during Advent and Laetare Sunday during Lent.

**Black:** symbolizes mourning. It may be used in Masses for the dead and on All Souls' Day.