

THE BEAUTY OF THE MASS—13

The **Colors of the Vestments and Liturgical Cycle** change as we journey through the Liturgical Year. The different colors are meant to express the specific character of the mysteries of faith being celebrated, to symbolize different truths, or to convey spiritual sentiments. Customarily, the color of these liturgical vestments (the chasuble, the dalmatic, and the stole) is repeated in other liturgical items, such as the chalice veil or a tabernacle veil or an antependium on the altar or the ambo.

White is the symbol of purity, majesty, glory and joy. It is used during the great Seasons of Christmas and Easter, for the other Feasts of our Lord Jesus, for the feasts of the Blessed Mother, Confessors, Virgins and Saints. A priest also may wear white at Funerals, Weddings and on the Feast of All Souls.

Gold can also be used for solemn feasts, such as Christmas or Easter or Christ the King. Like the color white, gold symbolizes majesty, glory and joy.

Green is a symbol of hope, youth, progress, life and continuous growth. This color is used in Masses of the Ordinary Time of the Liturgical Year. By Ordinary, we do not mean mundane or common. The Ordinary Time of the Liturgical Year covers those times between the great seasons of Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter. During the Ordinary Time of year, we walk with Jesus and, hopefully, we grow more and more like Jesus as we follow Him through His life.

Red is the symbol of love, fire, the blood of martyrdom, and royalty. It is worn on Palm Sunday, Good Friday, Pentecost, the Lord's Passion, and the Feasts of the Apostles, Evangelists and Martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the sake of Christ and the Gospel.

Violet or **Purple** is the symbol of humility, penance, austerity and preparation, and it is worn during the Seasons of Advent (**Violet**) and Lent (**Purple**). These colors signify preparation in Advent and penance, austerity, and repentance in Lent.

Another liturgical color is **Rose**. This color is worn on the Third Sunday of Advent (aka Gaudete Sunday) and on the Fourth Sunday of Lent (aka Laetare Sunday). The color rose lightens the austerity and penitential rigor of violet or purple. This color reminds us to rejoice because we are halfway through the Seasons of Advent or Lent.

- **Blue** or **light blue** is the symbol of our Blessed Mother and it may be worn on her feast days.

One final liturgical color is **Black**. Black is a symbol of mourning. Black may be worn at Funerals and for the Feast of All Souls on November 2.