

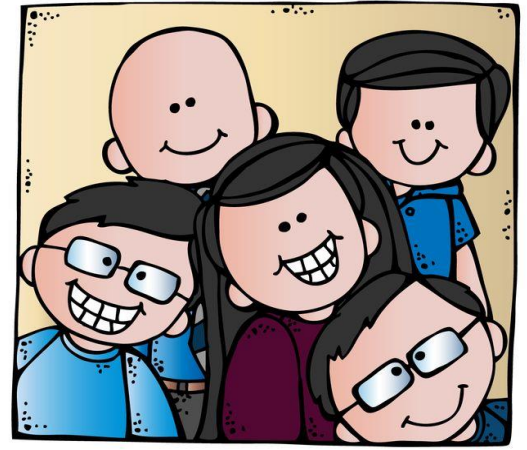
# St. James Faith on the Go

**Date: Nov. 14**

**Message:** Be Ready, The Church Calendar

**Gospel:** Mark 13: 24-32, John 18:33-37

**Materials:** Bible, Faith Journal, computer, writing tools, Church Calendar Sheet



**Opening Prayer:** Leaning on the Everlasting Arms by Lifetree Kids  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1CYNHT08\\_m0&t=38s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1CYNHT08_m0&t=38s)

## Warm Up:

Have you noticed the change of seasons these last few weeks?

What have we done to prepare for winter?

For each season, let's tell what things we like to do and any special days we celebrate. **Parents and children share** Sports and other activities are played in certain seasons too! Together think of sports/activities for each season.

But Team Jesus keeps playing all year round! It's always Jesus season!

Do you change with the seasons? We change our clothing and our activities, even our clocks!

How do you know the season is changing? We see signs.

What signs tell us it is almost winter?

What is a sign of Spring?

In our reading Jesus tells us to watch for signs, too, but faith signs.

## Gospel Proclamation: Mark 13:24-32

**Reading:** Read, or have your student read the reading. It can be helpful to read it twice or have students retell what they heard.

**Note:** This is a difficult reading so I have tried to apply it to their lives in the discussion and activity.

**Discussion:** Jesus is telling us to be on the watch for signs.

When things are going well, when something good happens, it is a sign to praise God or thank Him for His goodness. Think of something good that has happened lately. Thank God for that.

When something scary happens, it is a sign that we need to trust God. Ask for his help.

When you do something wrong you may feel bad inside. This is a sign that you need to tell God you are sorry.

When you feel confused or troubled, take time to be with God and tell Him about it. Listen to what He wants you to do. Take time to feel His love for you. He can calm the seas and He can calm the waves in your life.

Jesus wants us to know that, no matter what the season, we are never on vacation from Him.

All year around, Fall, Winter, Summer, and Spring we need to stay in touch with him through prayer, coming to church, and serving others. No matter what the season, it is always time to be with Jesus.

Our Church has seasons too! Today we will learn about the church (or Liturgical) calendar and discuss ways we celebrate during the year.

### **Living the Message:**

On the Liturgical Calendar sheet color the seasons as described.

Then cut out your calendar and glue it in your faith journal.

Now you will add important dates to your calendar outside of the circle in their correct place in the year.

Talk about how you celebrate the dates. You can also add illustrations around your calendar of how you celebrate some of the feast days. (Simplify for 1<sup>st</sup> graders)

Thanksgiving: Nov. 22

First Sunday of Advent; Dec. 2 This is the beginning of the church year!

Christmas Dec 25

Easter: April 21

The Ascension of Jesus May 30

St. Patrick's Day March 17

St. Valentine's Day Feb. 14

Pentecost Sunday June 9

Birthday of Mary, Mother of God Sept. 8

Feast of Mary, Mother of God January 1

Annunciation March 25

The Assumption of Mary into Heaven August 15

Your favorite Saints Day

Your birthday (You are a saint!) and other family birthdays.

Any other dates that are important to you!

Start with the first Sunday of Advent and follow the dates around the calendar. Talk about how you celebrate the dates. You can also add illustrations around your calendar of you celebrating some of the feast days.

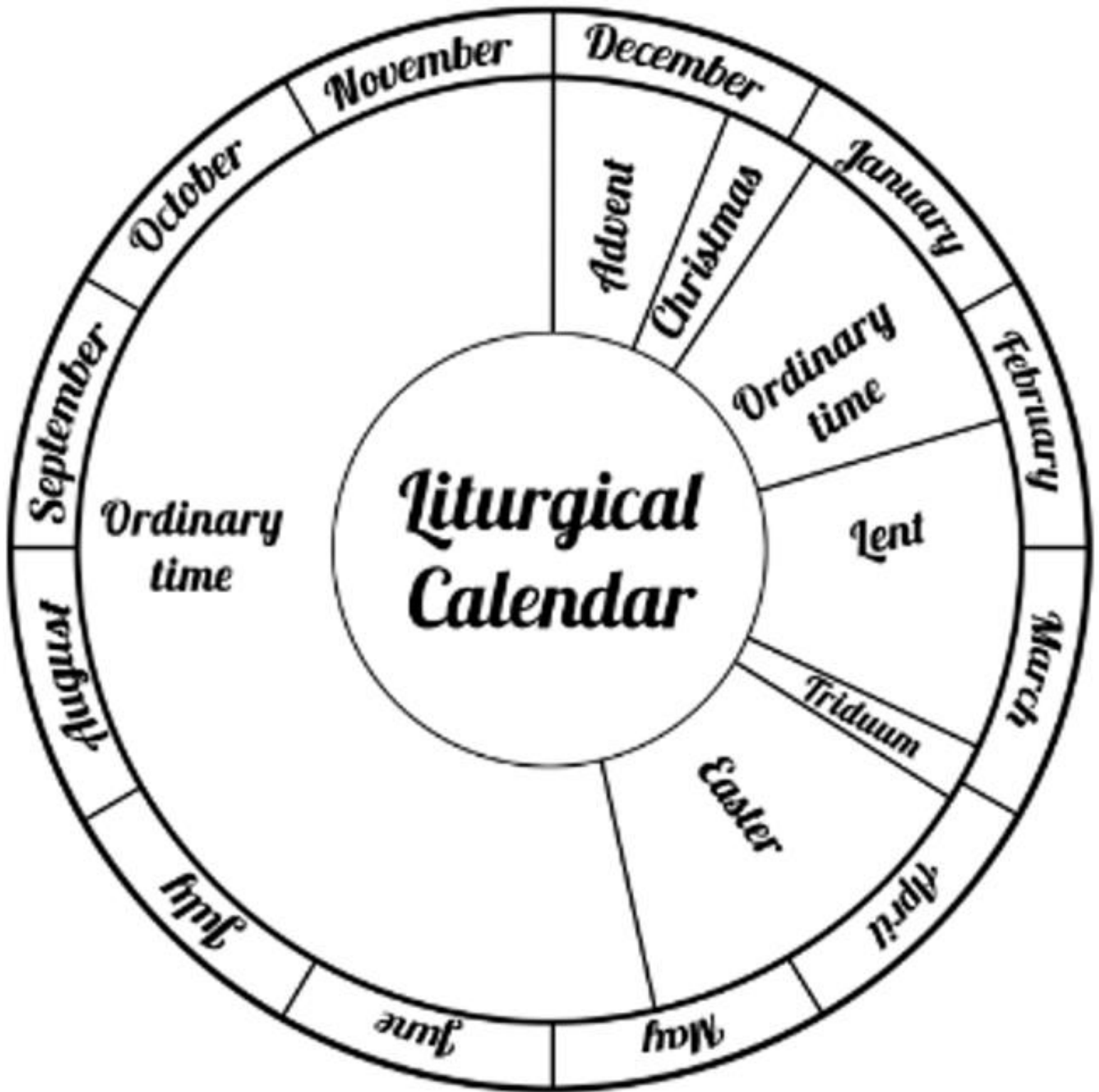
In your faith journal write a thank you message to God for your favorite season or day of the church year telling why it is your favorite.

### **Closing Prayer:**

Dear Father, we thank you for the seasons, for creating time to play in the leaves and go swimming, time to plant seeds and play in the snow. We thank you for time to be together learning about you. We praise you for making a time for everything. Help us make every day and season a time to praise you! Amen.

**Check In:** Parents, take a picture of the completed Liturgical Calendar and email it to [mfitzpatrick@sjnovi.net](mailto:mfitzpatrick@sjnovi.net).

I welcome any feedback to improve our lessons for the future.



### **Add the Liturgical Colors:**

The church is decorated with the colors of the season, including the priest's robes.

The liturgical year begins in Advent. Advent can be purple for repentance (more traditional) or blue for Mary.

Color Advent. During Advent we wait and prepare for Jesus to be born again in our hearts.

Christmas is white for holiness. We celebrate Jesus being with us.

Color ordinary time green.

The Color for Lent is purple for Repentance.

During Lent we pray, give to the poor, and fast from something we like. Color Lent purple.

Easter is the holiest time of the year. It can be colored white or gold.

Then we return to ordinary time for Summer and Fall.

**Cut out and glue in your faith journal and the holy days as described in your lesson.**