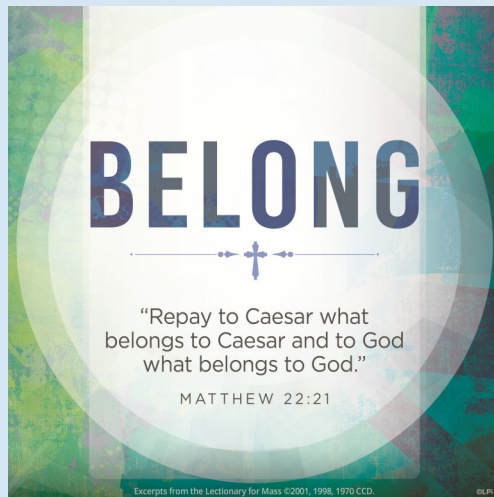


WHY DO WE DO THAT? - CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

Why Does the Church Have Different Liturgical Cycles?

While most Catholics know that the Church Year is divided into various seasons (e.g. Advent, Christmas, Ordinary Time, etc.), many are unaware that the one Church Year is not like the one that follows. While the main seasons and feasts are the same from year to year, the 3-year cycle for Sundays and the 2-year cycle for weekdays means that, as a general rule, the readings in the Lectionary that we hear at Mass will change from year to year, helping us to have a richer encounter with Sacred Scripture. Each new cycle begins with the beginning of the liturgical year, the First Sunday of Advent.



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The reasoning behind this innovation is outlined in Sacrosanctum Concilium, the “Dogmatic Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy” of the Second Vatican Council: “The treasures of the bible are to be opened up more lavishly, so that richer fare may be provided for the faithful at the table of God’s word. In this way a more representative

portion of the holy scriptures will be read to the people in the course of a prescribed number of years” (no. 51). This was fully achieved in 1969 when the new cycles of readings were approved by Pope Saint Paul VI.

To learn more about the Liturgy of the Word within the Mass, visit: www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/the-mass/order-of-mass/liturgy-of-the-word/index.cfm

RESPONDING to the *Call*

Chosen

It is getting close to Election Day and I suppose most of us have an idea of how we will cast our vote. We have tried to discern where candidates stand on important issues and what type of leader they might be if elected. However, there is a good chance that when we go into a voting booth, we will cast at least one vote for a person who we never heard of and to do a job we do not understand. We know the more notable people in the more notable contests, but some of those on the ballot as we get further into it? Who knew that was going to be on there?

In life we will at times be asked to make a choice about something or someone we know little about. Our choices will not always be as informed as we would like. Then, when we do know some

information needed to make a choice, we still don’t know everything. We may support a candidate and not really know him or her personally.

When God chose you and me, He had all the information needed to make the choice. The crazy thing is He chose us anyway! He knew we would sin, turn our backs on Him, and sometimes not be very good ambassadors for Him. However, He still chose us because He loves us. We are a chosen people. We are His own. I don’t know about you, but if given the chance I am not sure I would have chosen myself. I rejoice that God sees in me something that at times seems hidden to me.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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