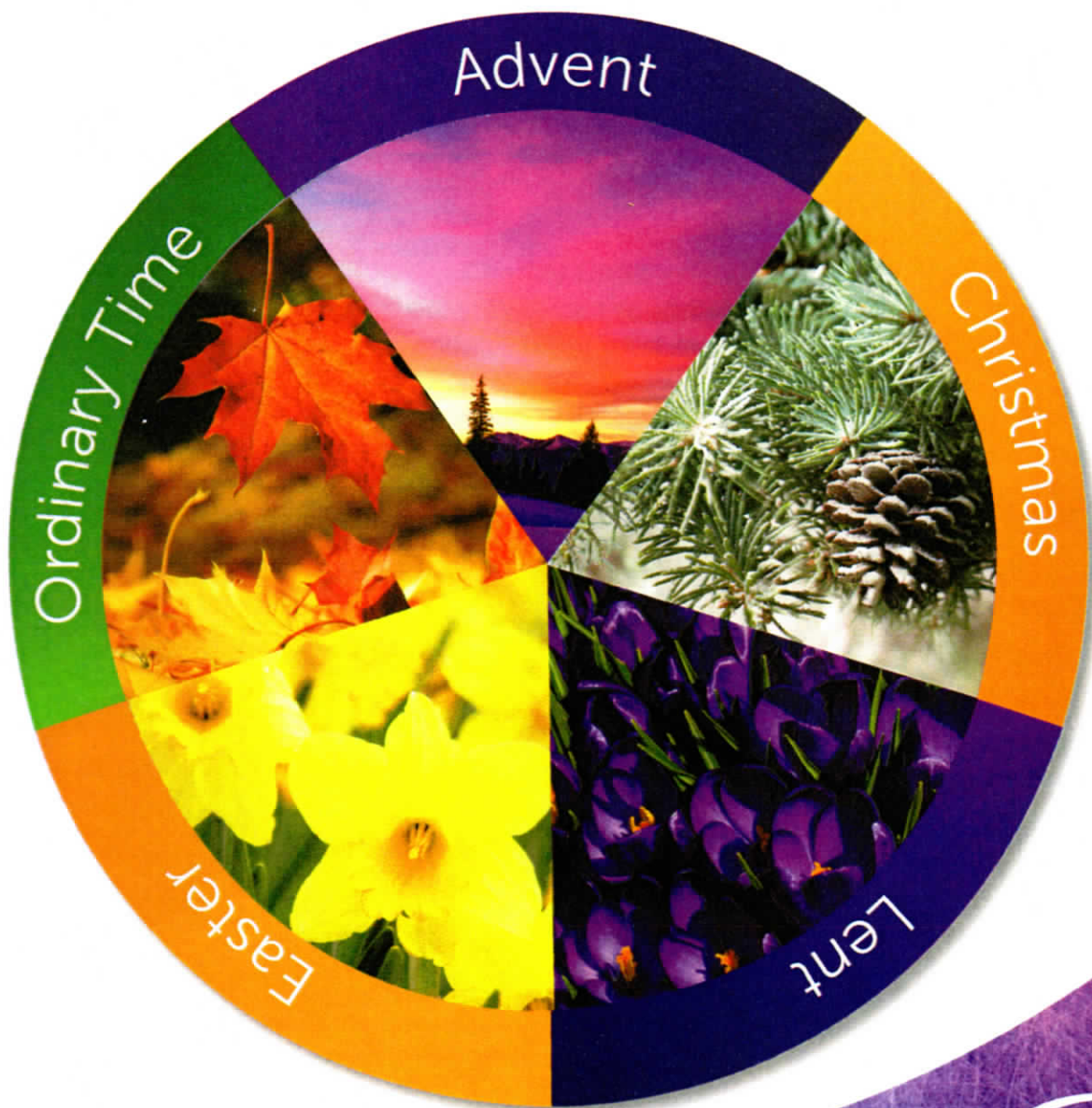


Our Family Gathers

Seasonal Celebrations for Parish and Home
Year B



RCL⁺
Benziger®

a Kendall Hunt Company

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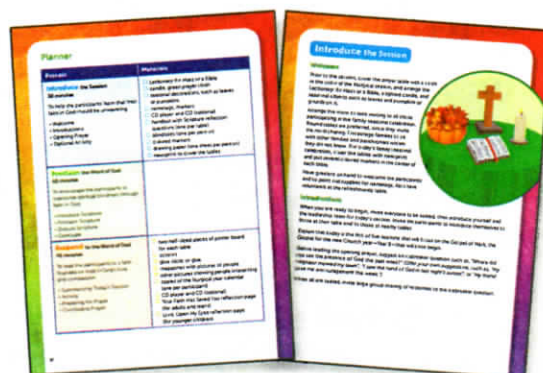
Overview

Within this guide you will find materials for five seasonal celebrations. To assist catechetical leaders with the large family gatherings and family leaders with the in-home sessions, each seasonal celebration provides background information on the session's Scripture passage and focus.

The Planner provides a visual overview of the session, including the process, a suggested timeline, materials needed, and resource suggestions.

A separate overview is provided for family members who will lead the in-home My Family Gathers sessions.

Whether used in a large group gathering of families or in the home, each seasonal celebration follows a three-step approach to catechesis.



Introduce the Session

The session begins with an Opening Prayer and includes sharing and an activity related to the session's seasonal and/or scriptural focus.

Proclaim the Word of God

The Scripture chosen for the session is proclaimed. Families are invited to reflect on and discuss the Scripture. An activity helps facilitate further reflection on the Word of God.

Respond to the Word of God

Family members are invited to take part in large group sharing and an activity to reinforce what was learned and discussed within the session. The session concludes with prayer.

Seasonal Celebration Focuses: Year B

The five seasonal celebrations in *Our Family Gathers: Seasonal Celebrations for Parish and Home, Year B* highlight the Gospel of Mark. Each session includes a seasonal focus, highlights a key Gospel passage from Mark, and includes a Scripture focus for reflection and prayer.

ORDINARY TIME, FALL (The Final Sundays)

Seasonal Focus: The new liturgical year
Scripture: Mark 10:46-52 (The Blind Bartimaeus)
Scripture Focus: Overcoming spiritual blindness through faith

ADVENT (The Start of the Season)

Seasonal Focus: The season of Advent
Scripture: Mark 1:1-8 (The Preaching of John the Baptist)
Scripture Focus: Living as disciples of Jesus

Because most parishes do not hold family gatherings during the Christmas season, there is no Christmas season session.

ORDINARY TIME, WINTER (The Sundays between Baptism of the Lord and Lent)

Seasonal Focus: The season of Ordinary Time
Scripture: Mark 2:1-12 (The Healing of a Paralytic)
Scriptural Focus: Jesus the Healer

LENT (The Beginning of Holy Week)

Seasonal Focus: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
Scripture: Mark 11:1-10 (The Entry into Jerusalem)
Scriptural Focus: Following God's will

EASTER SEASON (The Start of the Season)

Seasonal Focus: Renewing our commitment as disciples of Jesus
Scripture: Mark 4:26-34 (Seed Grows of Itself; The Mustard Seed)
Scriptural Focus: The Kingdom of God

Planner

Process	Materials
<p>Introduce the Session 30 minutes</p> <p>To help the participants learn that their faith in God should be unwavering</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome • Introductions • Opening Prayer • Optional Activity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Lectionary for Mass</i> or a Bible <input type="checkbox"/> candle, green prayer cloth <input type="checkbox"/> seasonal decorations, such as leaves or pumpkins <input type="checkbox"/> nametags, markers <input type="checkbox"/> CD player and CD (optional) <input type="checkbox"/> handout with Scripture reflection questions (one per table) <input type="checkbox"/> blindfolds (one per person) <input type="checkbox"/> colored markers <input type="checkbox"/> drawing paper (one sheet per person) <input type="checkbox"/> newsprint to cover the tables
<p>Proclaim the Word of God 45 minutes</p> <p>To encourage the participants to overcome spiritual blindness through faith in God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce Scripture • Proclaim Scripture • Discuss Scripture • Conclude 	
<p>Respond to the Word of God 45 minutes</p> <p>To lead the participants to a faith founded on trust in God's love and compassion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summarizing Today's Session • Activity • Preparing for Prayer • Concluding Prayer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> two half-sized pieces of poster board for each table <input type="checkbox"/> scissors <input type="checkbox"/> glue sticks or glue <input type="checkbox"/> magazines with pictures of people <input type="checkbox"/> other pictures showing people interacting <input type="checkbox"/> copies of the liturgical year calendar (one per participant) <input type="checkbox"/> CD player and CD (optional) <input type="checkbox"/> Your Faith Has Saved You reflection page (for adults and teens) <input type="checkbox"/> Lord, Open My Eyes reflection page (for younger children)