Colors of Liturgical Vestments

The Church's liturgical norms prescribe specific vestment colors for various celebrations. This is to:

1. **Highlight the particular liturgical season and the faithful's journey through these seasons.**
2. **Punctuate the liturgical season by highlighting a particular event or particular mystery of faith.**

WHITE OR GOLD symbolizes rejoicing and purity of soul. White or gold is worn during the liturgical seasons of Christmas and Easter.



- White is used for feasts of our Lord (except those pertaining to His passion), the Blessed Virgin Mary, the angels, and the saints who were not martyrs.
- They are also worn on the Solemnity of St. Joseph, and the Feasts of All Saints, St. John the Baptist, St. John the Evangelist, the Chair of St. Peter, and the Con version of St. Paul.
- White may also be used for Masses of Christian Burial and Masses for the Dead to signify the resurrection of our Lord, when He triumphed over sin and death, sorrow and darkness.



RED symbolizes the shedding of blood and thus is used on:

- Palm Sunday (when Christ entered Jerusalem to prepare for His death), Good Friday, any other commemoration of the Lord's passion, the votive Mass of the Precious Blood, and the days marking the martyrdom of the apostles (except St. John).
- The feasts of other martyrs who offered their lives for the faith.

RED also signifies the burning fire of God's love. For this reason, they are worn on:

- Pentecost when the Holy Spirit descended on the apostles and tongues of fire rested on their heads.
- For the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- For the votive Masses of the Holy Spirit.

GREEN symbolizes hope in everlasting life with him and in life, just as the hint of green on trees in early Spring arouses the hope of new life. Green is used during the liturgical season called Ordinary Time. This season focuses on:



- The three-year period of our Lord's public ministry. The Gospel passages, particularly on Sundays, recount His teachings, miracles, exorcisms, and other deeds during this time.
- All of these teachings and events engender great hope in the mystery of salvation. We focus on the life He shared with mankind during His time on this earth, the life we share now with Him in the community of the Church and through His sacraments, and we look forward to sharing everlasting Life with Him perfectly in Heaven.

VIOLET OR PURPLE is used during Advent and Lent as a sign of penance, sacrifice and preparation.

- At the midpoint of both of these seasons—Gaudete Sunday (the third Sunday of Advent) and Laetare Sunday (the fourth Sunday of Lent—**ROSE** vestments are traditionally worn as a sign of joy: we rejoice at the midpoint of these seasons because we are half-way through the preparation and anticipate the coming joy of Christmas or Easter.



