A New Church Year Middle Classes

**FACTS ABOUT THE CHURCH YEAR**

* The Church year is divided into different seasons, just like the calendar year.
* The Church year begins on the First Sunday of Advent (late November) and ends on the Feast of Christ the King. (mid Novenber).
* We can tell which season we are in by the different coloured vestments that the priest wears, when celebrating Mass.

In Advent, the priest wears purple, the colour of royalty. This reminds us that we are waiting for the King of the World to be born. At Mass during Advent, we hear about the Old Testament prophet, Isaiah and about John the Baptist.

**White or gold vestments are worn at Christmas and Easter times.** These are times of great joy in the church. **White is also worn for feasts of our Blessed Mother, Mary.** An example of this is The Feast of the Immaculate Conception, which occurs during Advent on December 8th.

In Ordinary time, the priest wears green. Green is a sign of hope and life.

Red, the colour of blood, is worn on Palm Sunday and on Good Friday, when we recall the suffering and death of Jesus on the Cross.

Red is also the colour of fire, a symbol of the Holy Spirit. Red vestments are worn on Pentecost Sunday and for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

***The Church Year is called the Liturgical Year.***

There are 3 Liturgical Years, A, B and C. In each of these years, we hear the story of Jesus’ birth, life, death and resurrection as recounted by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. These are the 4 Evangelists---the writers of the 4 Gospels.

In Year A, most of the Gospels are from St. Matthew, in Year B from St. Mark and in Year C from St. Luke.

St. John’s Gospel is heard in all three years, especially during the Easter Season.

In 2020, The First Sunday of Advent is on November 29th and the readings at Mass will be from St. Mark----Year B.

**To do: Take your Classroom Bible and**

1. look up Isaiah in the Old Testament and see what he foretold about the baby Jesus. (Isaiah 9: 2-7)
2. Read about John the Baptist in St. Luke’s Gospel, Chapter 3.

c) look at the 4 Gospels. See how they are divided up. See which ones have the story of the birth of Jesus, the First Christmas.