

# Seasons of the Church

## Allelu!

Growing and Celebrating with Jesus

### Lesson 19, Kindergarten

#### Lesson 19 Goal

- Your child will focus on the seasons of the Liturgical Year and will identify these seasons through the major celebrations on our Church calendar.

#### Key Points

- Just like nature has seasons, there are seasons, or different times of year, in the Church.
- The Church uses colors to mark the seasons of the Church year.



#### Parent Reflection

As a Church, we re-experience the events of salvation history as we celebrate the cycle of the Liturgical Year. In Advent, we experience the promise of the Light to come. The Christmas Season is a time of joy, light, and hope. Ordinary Time makes up the bulk of our Church year. It is a joyful time (we still sing the “*Gloria*,” and “*Alleluia*” at Mass), but without the high intensity of Christmas and Easter. The Blessed Virgin Mary and the saints are honored during the Liturgical Year to show that the earth is united with the liturgy of Heaven (CCC, 1195).

During Lent, we are called to reflect upon our lives, repent of our sins, and purify ourselves through sacrifice. It is a “dark” time that foreshadows the suffering and death of Christ. But there is light at the end of Lent.

The Easter Vigil that begins the new season of the Church Year is all about light. The Vigil liturgy begins in darkness; we then light “the new fire” as we remember Jesus our light, a light that could not be extinguished by the power of sin and death, a light that forever shines through the Church. It is fitting that in this celebration of the Resurrection of Christ, we celebrate the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), welcoming those who have been called to join the Catholic Church. It is a sign of the new life our Church has through Christ.

Finally, it is important to note that Sunday is the principal day for the celebration of the Eucharist. Going to Mass on Sunday is so important that it is the foundation of the whole Church year.

#### Reflection Question

In what way does the cycle of the Church year parallel the experiences of my own life?

## Lesson Preparation

Before inviting your child to sit with you for lesson time, prepare all materials.

### Materials

- Family Activity Sheet
- crayons, colored pencils, or markers
- safety scissors
- tissue paper (purple, white, green, and red)
- one piece of 9" x 12" black construction paper
- two 10" x 13" sheets of clear contact paper
- tablecloths or colored construction paper for the prayer table (purple, white or gold, green, red)
- Activity Master #2 – Saint Page (Keep the saint page from each lesson to gather together a Communion of Saints Book created

by your child.)

### Preparation Steps

- Make sure your child has a copy of Activity Master #2 (included with this lesson).
- Cut several 1" x 1" squares of tissue paper in purple, white, green, and red and set them aside. Fold the construction paper in half like a card. Carefully cut a cross-shaped form from the paper and set it aside. Discard the cross shape and keep the "frame." Cut two 10" x 13" sheets of clear contact paper.

## Gathering

Create a prayerful space. You might place a candle on the table, or set a cross in front of you. Invite your child to join you in quietly preparing for prayer.

Say the following or similar words: "Now that we are in this prayerful space let us find the quiet in our hearts so we can talk with God."

Sit together for several seconds of shared silence.

Say, "Today we are going to do something different with our prayer table. We have several cloths for the table. Each one is a different color. We use these colors at different times of the year to help us think about different times in Jesus' life. Just this once, we are going to use all the tablecloths, one on top of the other, so we can see all the special colors."

### Begin in prayer:

Make the Sign of the Cross together or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead: "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and

of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

*"(Child's name), take this purple cloth and spread it on our prayer table. We use it at two different times of the year, called Advent and Lent. Next, please take this white cloth, which we use for Christmas and Easter, and spread it on our table. Sometimes for these special feasts, we use gold instead of white. Now, please take this green cloth, which we use for Ordinary Time, and spread it on our prayer table. Finally, please take this red cloth, which we use for Pentecost and when we remember the Holy Spirit and on certain days when we honor Jesus and the saints. Please spread it on our prayer table."*

*Let us pray. Thank you, Jesus, for your Church and the beautiful seasons. Amen.*

## Discovering

**We Share and Learn.** Turn to the first page of the Activity Sheet and read about seasons and celebrations.

Ask your child, "Which Church season do you like best? Why?"

Turn to the second page of the Activity Sheet. Ask your child the "Ask Me!" questions and review the answers.

## Exploring

Use the following activities to enrich your child's understanding of the lesson and of our Catholic faith.

**1. The Church Has Seasons.** Turn to the main activity of the Activity Sheet (center pages) and invite your child to describe what he or she sees. Give your child crayons or colored pencils. Explain the activity to your child and have him or her complete it.

**2. Liturgical Colors Stained Glass Cross.** Help your child place one sheet of clear contact paper, sticky-side up, on the table. Together, place the construction paper frame directly on the contact paper. Cover the "cross" frame with the colored tissue paper. Be sure the opening is completely covered with the colored tissue paper. Place the other sticky sheet directly on top of the

other to seal in the tissue paper and cross frame. Trim off the extra contact paper at the edges. Talk about the liturgical colors and their meaning as you complete this craft with your child.

**3. The Communion of Saints: Saint Brendan.** Show your child the picture of Saint Brendan on the Family Activity page and read about him. Then read Saint Brendan's biography to your child (see below).

Ask your child:

▶ "How did Saint Brendan honor special feasts and seasons of the Church year?"

▶ "How does our family celebrate each of the Church seasons?"

Have your child write and draw about Saint Brendan using Activity Master #2.

## Sending

**Pray with your child.** Begin by making the Sign of the Cross together, or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead. Pray aloud with your child.

*Dear Jesus, Thank you for our Liturgical Year. Bless everyone and keep us safe. Amen.*

## Saint Brendan

### Celebrating the Feasts of the Church Year

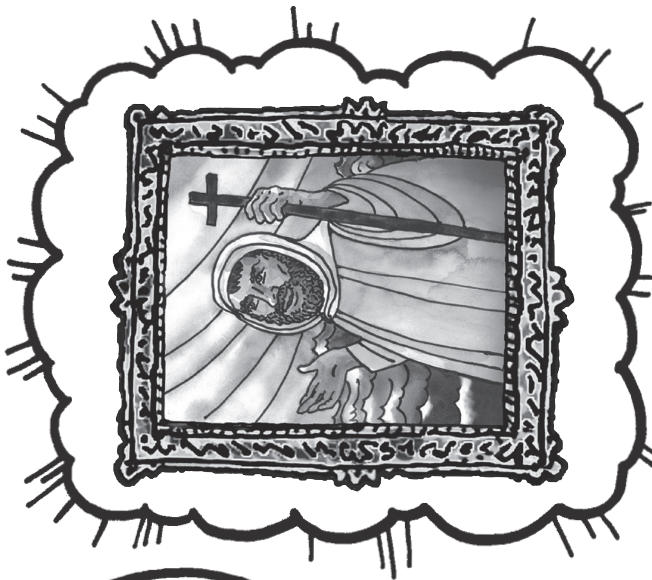
Long ago in Ireland, a child called Brendan was born. He grew up to be a hard worker and a good leader. Brendan became a prayerful priest.

There were no cars, trains, or planes when Brendan lived, but he was an amazing traveler. He and his brother priests built a wooden frame for a boat. One sail was put up, and supplies packed. They got into the boat, leaving Ireland for several years. In that little boat, they may have traveled to Iceland, Greenland, and perhaps even to North America!

It seems these sailors landed on an island within the week before Easter. A holy man lived there, who shared a meal with them to celebrate the day called Holy Thursday. During the Easter season, they arrived at a place called Paradise Island, staying there until Pentecost. Afterwards they sailed again, not stopping for months, until Christmas, which they celebrated on the island of Ailbe.

For five years, they traveled, but always returned to their special places to celebrate the feasts of the Church year.

**DRAW**



**Saint  
Brendan,  
pray for us!**