

# Church Cycle Circle

Name \_\_\_\_\_

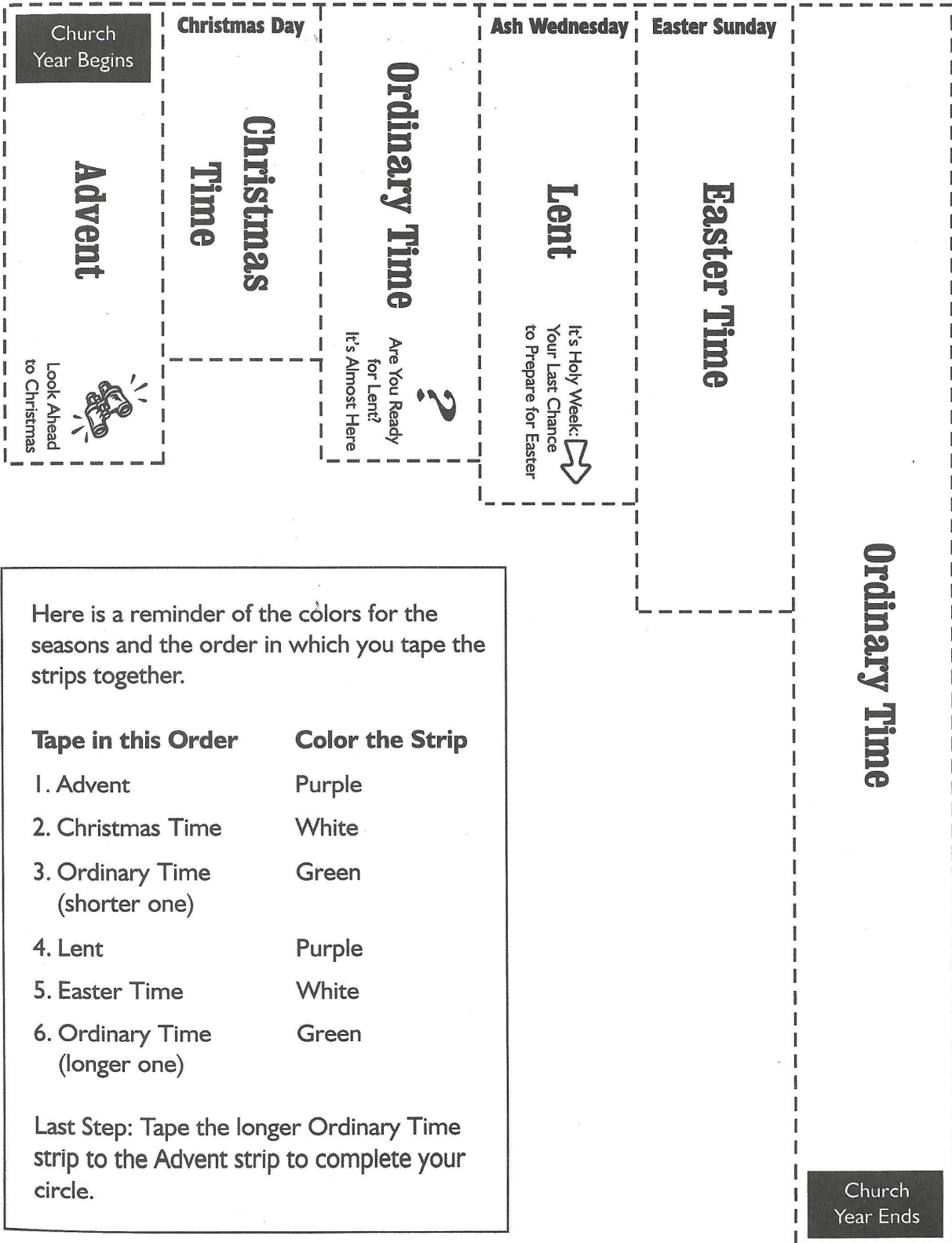
The Church year is divided into seasons. Do you know the names of the Church seasons? They are Advent, Christmas, Ordinary Time, Lent, Easter, and then more Ordinary Time. Every year these seasons repeat themselves too, just like the seasons of nature. We call this the Church cycle.

The Church uses special colors for each season to remind us what that season is about. Learning the Church seasons, their colors, and what the colors mean can be fun. Just follow these directions and soon you will have a Church Cycle Circle that will help you remember all the seasons of the Church year.

1. Color the Lent and Advent strips purple. Purple is the color that reminds us to get ready for something—to prepare ourselves. In Advent we get ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas. In Lent, we get ready to celebrate Jesus' death and resurrection. The priest wears purple during these seasons.
2. Easter Time and Christmas Time are the happiest times of the year. Color them white or leave them white. White shows joy. The priest wears white at these happy times of year.
3. Green is the color of growth and hope. During Ordinary Time we grow in faith, and the priest wears green during Mass. Color Ordinary Time green.
4. Now cut out each of the paper strips on the dotted lines.
5. Look first for Advent. The 1st Sunday of Advent is the beginning of the Church year. Now find Christmas Time. Tape Advent and Christmas Time together to make one strip. Remember that Advent comes before Christmas.
6. Now find the short Ordinary Time and tape it next to Christmas.
7. Find Lent and tape it next in line. Do you remember what we're getting ready for in Lent? That's right. The answer is Jesus' death and resurrection. Tape Easter Time right after Lent.
8. The longest and last season of the Church year is Ordinary Time again. Tape it right after Easter Time. Then, to complete the year, tape the end of Ordinary Time to the beginning of Advent. Now your Church Cycle Circle is done! Take it home and put it where you can see it often. It will help you remember the seasons of the Church year and what they mean.

GROWTH HOPE  
JOY FAITH

Name \_\_\_\_\_



Church Year Begins

Christmas Day

Ash Wednesday

Easter Sunday

Advent

Christmas Time

Ordinary Time

Lent

Easter Time

Ordinary Time

Look Ahead to Christmas

Are You Ready for Lent? It's Almost Here

It's Holy Week: Your Last Chance to Prepare for Easter

Church Year Ends