

Seasons of Salvation The Divine Calendar

Seasons of Salvation	Time & Duration	Focus of the Season	Practical practice (Bible reading) Each season starts with a fast and ends with a feast	Grace and Blessing of the season
<p>The Kingdom of God</p> <p>An introductory period at the beginning of the Church year</p>	<p>It starts in September and lasts for about two and a half months.</p>	<p>The focus of this season is on the Kingdom of God because this is the main topic of the Bible.</p> <p>During this season, we ask God to grant us more understanding about His Kingdom, in accordance to the biblical revelation.</p>	<p>Set apart some times of prayer and fasting. This is the basic principle to apply in each season.</p> <p>Read the biblical passages about the Kingdom of God and ask the Lord to reveal to you how to apply it and live it.</p>	
<p>Season of Incarnation</p>		<p>The focus is on how to be close to Jesus in the different stages of His Incarnated life and accompany Him in these different stages, giving Him a chance to be formed in us more and more.</p>	<p>During the Advent, we need to prepare our hearts by prayer and fasting to receive the graces and gifts of Theophany.</p> <p>Focus on reading the 4 gospels</p>	<p>Two blessings of Incarnation:</p> <p>1) Exchange: Jesus gave us what belong to Him and took what belong to us.</p> <p>2) Dealing with the problem of the self or the ego: Christ emptied Himself of the glory of the Son of God (Phil2:6-9). We need to realize our nothingness; yet, at the same time Christ dwells in us. Therefore, every good and precious thing in us comes from the indwelling person of the Christ.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Advent 	<p>6 weeks of fasting before Christmas</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Nativity feast 	<p>Starts on Christmas day and lasts for a week</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebration of Circumcision 	<p>8th day from the birth of Jesus</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebration of Epiphany: the Baptism of Jesus. Epiphany means the manifestation of God 	<p>3 day feast</p>			
<p><i>* Nativity, Circumcision, and Epiphany are called Theophany feasts *</i></p>				

<p>Get ready to enter the most important cycle of the year (the spiritual spring of the year)</p>	<p>It starts after Epiphany feast and lasts until the Great Lent begins</p>	<p>Having received all the “<i>graces of Theophany feasts</i>”, the believers get ready to enter spiritual spring of the year : (the Great Lent, Resurrection & Ascension)</p>		
<p>Season of Crucifixion</p>		<p>The beginning of the fast of the Great Lent is always on a Monday. After the usual liturgy of the Sunday before Lent, the faithful gather in church again in the evening of that same Sunday to attend a special service called “<i>forgiveness service</i>” where everyone asks forgiveness from others to begin the fast (the next day: Monday) on the most important base/foundation which is <i>Forgiveness</i>.</p> <p>Christ has forgiven us; therefore, we should forgive each other. Otherwise, our fast will not be a sacrifice of love offered to Him and the redemptive work during the fast will be greatly hindered.</p>	<p>The whole Bible is usually read during this season, but one should start gradually and train in this spiritual diligence until one reaches the point of being able to read the whole Bible during this season.</p>	<p><i>Grace of the Cross :</i> Die to our old Nature</p> <p><i>Grace of Resurrection :</i> Releasing of the New Nature</p> <p><i>2 of the results of the grace of the Cross and Resurrection :</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uprightness of heart • Restoration of the broken heart
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Great Lent is a total of 7 weeks : 6 weeks + Passion week 	<p>The Great Lent starts 7 weeks prior to Easter</p>			
<p>Season of Resurrection</p>		<p>The focus in this season is on the Crucifixion and the work of redemption and how this leads to the Resurrection and the fellowship in the resurrection of Christ.</p> <p>In His resurrection, we are granted the life of the Risen Christ which is poured in us.</p> <p>During the Great Lent, the focus is on the crucifixion, redemption and the fellowship of the death of Christ. The resurrection is the victory over death.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Feast of Resurrection (Easter) 	<p>It is an extended feast which starts on Easter Sunday and lasts for 40 days until the Ascension.</p>			

Season of Ascension		<p>The grace of ascension reminds us that our real place is in heavenly places because we were raised with Christ and seated with Him in the heavenly places (Ephesians2:6). We are in great need for this grace of Ascension.</p> <p>1. In relation to the inner life: climb the mountain of prayer and meet God; receive new revelation about the Person of God.</p> <p>2. In relation to our ministry: the grace of ascension helps us to practically enter into our priestly calling and learn how to serve as priests with our High Priest. We know that in Christ we are priests but we need to learn how to serve as priests with our High Priest. The Holy Spirit will teach us how to intercede effectively according to the mind of God.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Feast of Ascension 	<p>10 days : It starts from the Ascension until the day of Pentecost</p>	
Pouring of the Holy Spirit		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pouring of the H.S. - Infilling of the H.S. - Gift of the H.S. - Anointing of the H.S. <p>The focus is on receiving renewed infilling of the Holy Spirit.</p> <p>The inner man is the container that receives the infilling of the Spirit.</p> <p>At this point, after the spiritual journey through the above seasons of salvation, we should be growing spiritually and the capacity of our inner man should be increasing.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pentecost 	<p>The time of Pentecost varies</p>	
<p>After the day of Pentecost, there is another season related to the Holy Spirit and ministry.</p>	<p>This varies from one church to the other according to the different calendars.</p>	<p>There is usually a time of fasting where the focus is on the Holy Spirit.</p> <p>We have just received renewed infilling of the Spirit (in the previous season); and so, we need to review ourselves in relation to the work of the Holy Spirit inside us, in our ministry, and our vision of the Kingdom work. Have we received a new anointing? Is there a specific burden in our hearts towards ministry? The focus would be on reviewing our ministry of the previous year and how this ministry will extend in the coming year. We may receive from the Holy Spirit some burden in our hearts or a preoccupation with a certain ministry.</p>

The Second Coming of Christ	August	This brings us close to the month of August which is the last month of the Church year where the focus is on the second Coming of Christ and how to be prepared for it. The end of the year signifies the end of one's life and the coming of Christ. Therefore, in this season we focus on the Second Coming of Christ and our preparation and readiness for the end of our life. At any time, Jesus can call us to go to Him or He can come to us; and so, we should be ready. He will come as a Bridegroom and as a King. Therefore, we need to prepare ourselves as the bride of Christ and prepare our ministry, the field of Kingdom work given to us, so that He would reign over it.
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Helping points

- September is the beginning of the Church year, the divine calendar.
- Every season begins with fasting and reading the Scriptures: the aim is to prepare our inner being to receive the blessing and the grace when it is imparted to our spirit.
- Every season ends with a feast. No fasting during the feast.
- Fasting: usually morning fasting and vegan meals for lunch, dinner. But each person can fast according to the measure of grace.