

## Why are the vestments worn by priests green?

### And why does Father sometimes wear red or white if we are in Ordinary Time?



Priest vestment colors are associated with the liturgical season. For most of the year, the Church is in Ordinary Time, which begins after the Baptism of the Lord (the end of the Christmas Season) and lasts until the beginning of Lent (on Ash Wednesday), and then begins again after Pentecost (the end of the Easter Season). While during the seasons of Advent and Lent the priest wears violet vestments to remind us that we are in times of humility and penance, and then during the great celebrations of Christmas and Easter, the priest wears white to represent purity, joy, light, the long-but-interrupted “season” of Ordinary Time lasts the majority of the year, and the priest will usually wear green, the color symbolizing growth and maturation during this “ordered” time in

the life of the Church. But even within these major seasons, you still might see the priest wearing different colors of vestments on different days, corresponding feast days or memorials.

The different colors of vestments are:

Gold – to represent joy, can be worn in lieu of white, red, or green

Red – to represent the passion, blood, martyrdom

Black – to represent mourning or sorrow, typically only worn on All Saints Day

A few days give options to the priest: for instance, January 20, the Feast Day of Saints Fabian and Sebastian, the priest may choose to celebrate their feast day by wearing red (they were both martyrs for the Church) or he could choose to wear green for Ordinary Time.

