

Research Component

For each of the three liturgies in which you participate for this project, you will write a two-page, typed research paper *before* you attend the liturgy. Use these questions to direct your research:

- What is the liturgical season or occasion for this liturgy?
- On what date(s) or during what time of the calendar year does this season or occasion fall?
- What is the meaning of this liturgical season or occasion? On what aspect(s) of the Paschal Mystery does it invite us to focus?
- How did this season or occasion develop in the Church? What is its historical background?
- What colors, signs, symbols, rituals, and practices are associated with this season?
- What biblical people or biblical themes are associated with this season?

Your paper must address most, but not necessarily all, of these questions. You may also include other relevant information you find in the course of your research. Conclude your paper by posing a question or raising an issue that you hope will be answered or addressed in the liturgy in which you participate. This question or issue should arise from your research. Some example issues are these: "I will be curious to see how the colors of the Advent season are incorporated into the church environment" or "I am wondering if the liturgy will include a litany of the saints, and, if so, which saints will be mentioned."

Other Important Information

- You must utilize at least three academic sources to write your paper. *The Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth*, by Brian Singer-Towns (Saint Mary's Press, 2008), can be one of your three sources. Your teacher and school librarian can help you to locate other appropriate sources in print or electronic form.
- Document all of your sources in a bibliography, using the format your teacher provides. The bibliography is a separate page of your research paper and does not count as one of your two typed pages.
- Your teacher may assign a specific due date for each research paper or simply collect all three papers together at the end of the semester when you submit your completed portfolio for this project.

