

# THE ROMAN MISSAL 3RD EDITION

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## **The Many Colors of Grace**

The liturgy of the Church makes a rich and varied use of color. The color of the stole, chasuble and dalmatic changes according to the feast and season. The tent-like veil covering the tabernacle may also change, following the same rules. The variety of liturgical colors signifies the different ways in which we are touched by the grace of Christ in the liturgy.

Violet or purple, signifying longing and penance, are used in Advent and Lent. Rose-colored vestments, a sign of anticipated joy, may be used on the Third Sunday of Advent and the Fourth Sunday of Lent. White, the color of purity and of glory, is used during Christmastide and Paschaltide, as well as on certain feasts of the Lord and on feasts of the Virgin Mary and many saints. Vestments of gold or silver cloth may be used on great solemnities. Green, symbolizing growth, fruitfulness, and hope, is worn on Sundays and weekdays during the Time Throughout the Year. Red, recalling the blood of Christ and of the martyrs, as well as the fire of the Holy Spirit, is worn on Passion Sunday, on Pentecost, for Masses of the Holy Spirit, on the feasts of the Holy Cross and of Apostles and martyrs. For Masses of the Dead and funerals, black, violet, or white vestments may be worn.

The association of colors with the various feasts, seasons, and mysteries of the Lord is part of our Catholic liturgical heritage. The Church, “in many-colored robes is led to the King” (cf. Psalm 44:12).