

These Bible stories are presented to children in the context in which most of them heard them first and continue to hear them most frequently: the Mass. The stories in this book are the same stories children and adults will hear in Scripture readings at Mass.

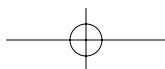
The stories are arranged according to the time of the liturgical year they are most likely to be encountered. Thus, we have stories of the church seasons: Advent, Christmas, Ordinary Time, Lent, and Easter.

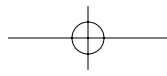
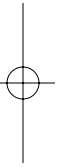
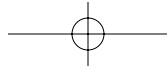
The stories themselves are retold with an eye on the themes of that liturgical season as well as various aspects of Catholic life that are informed by that Scripture passage: prayers, devotions, sacraments, teachings, and the lives of the saints.

A book featuring sixty stories is not comprehensive. It's not intended to replace reading the Scriptures at home or in the classroom. We hope these stories inspire readers to go back and read the Mass readings. We also intend that readers return to the stories in this book and see how they relate to the bigger story of the church.

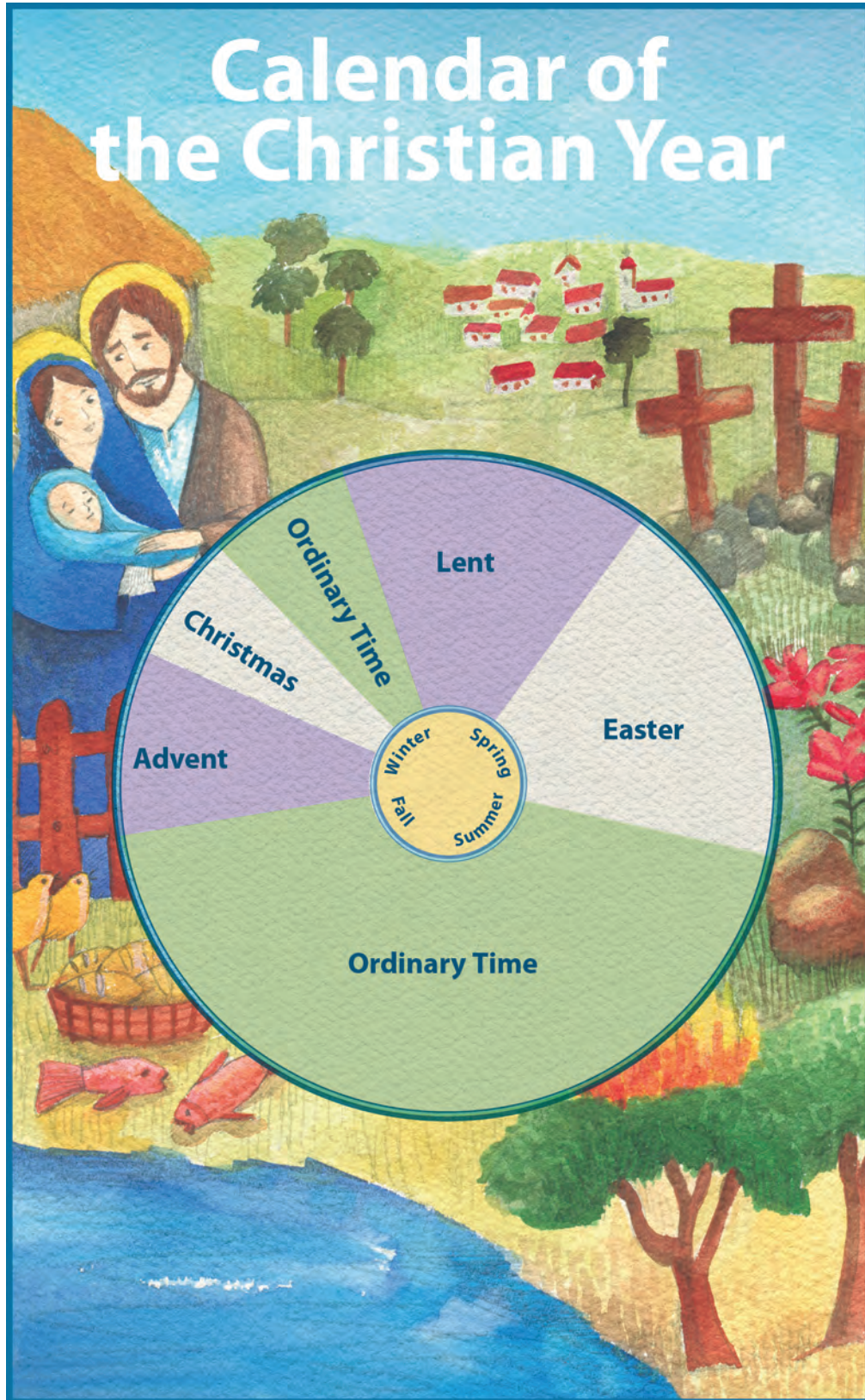
Use this book however you like. The stories can be used as an added family or classroom devotion during a liturgical season. They can be used outside a specific season and read and enjoyed on their own. We hope you will enjoy this book with a Bible at your side, for deeper reading and exploration. Direct quotes from the Bible appear in [color] so that young readers can become familiar with Scripture quotations in the context of the larger story. Each story includes references where the story is found in Scripture.

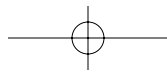
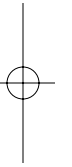
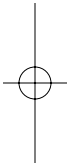
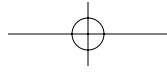
I hope you'll see this book as part of a conversation between God and his people that is as old as creation—and a conversation in which you and the children in your care have a part. This is a conversation that we hear in the life of the church through history, and it echoes in each person's heart, no matter how young he or she is. This sacred conversation begins with God breathing over the waters, and God's voice speaking us into life. It ends, someday, after a life of listening to that Voice, with an *Amen* from ours.





# Calendar of the Christian Year





# Advent





ADVENT

## Prophets Say That a Messiah Is Coming

When we read the stories about people in the Bible, we can learn about our own lives. The Bible tells the story of us humans, beginning with our first parents in Genesis. And it follows our journey over hundreds of years. Sometimes very sad things happened. Sometimes God's people were conquered by other nations. Sometimes these other nations took God's people away from the home God had given them, which was called the Promised Land. When these bad things happened to the people, they wondered, *Why are we suffering? When will God help us?*