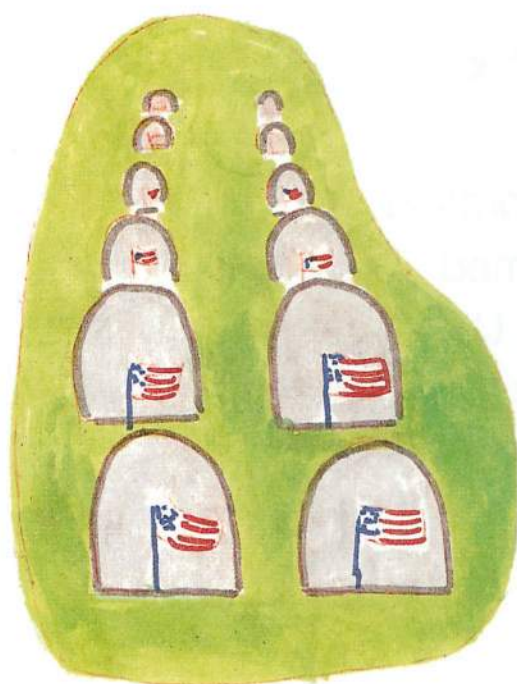
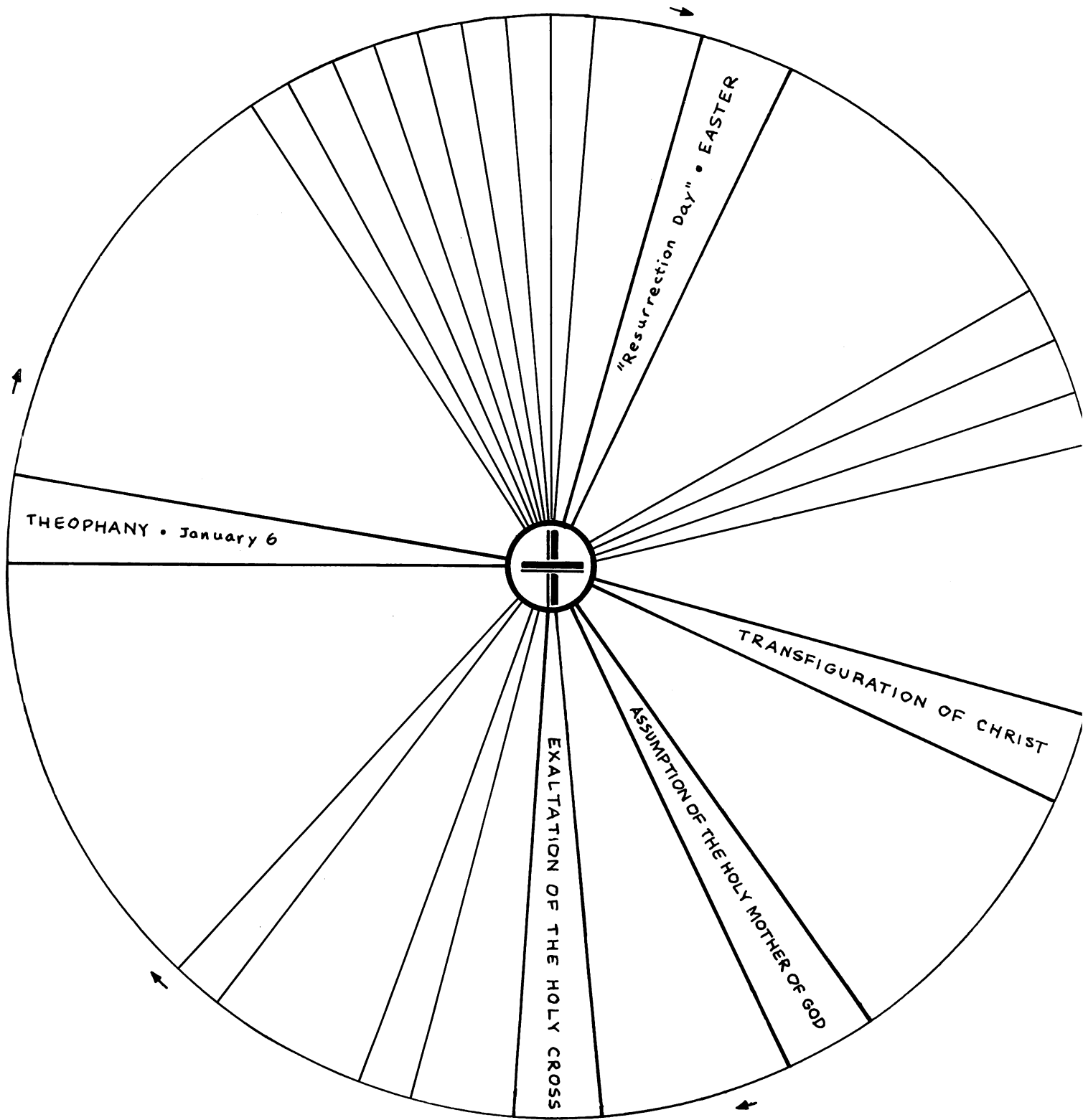


A Year of Celebration







Fill in your *own* Church calendar.

Unit II: Feasts

Session 1—A Year of Celebration

Key Concepts

1. A calendar is a time schedule.
2. The church calendar schedules the events in the life of Christ and other special people and events in the Church.
3. We celebrate and remember the events in the life of Christ.

Objectives

Students will

1. Use the church calendar.
2. Discuss the continuity of the Church.

Materials Needed

- Diocesan calendars (one for each child, if possible)
- Secular calendars (one for each child, if possible)
- “Church Calendar” game

Procedure

1. Opening prayer. (5 min.)
2. Review homework from last week (news reports and bulletin). Have all students present their news broadcasts on the “TV.” Review Lazarus story, if necessary. (20 min.)
3. Start a class discussion based on pictures in the student text in relation to the holidays they represent.

- (Key)
1. Memorial Day
 2. Fourth of July
 3. Christmas
 4. Valentine’s Day
 5. Thanksgiving
 6. Easter
 7. New Year’s Day
 8. Mother’s Day
 9. Halloween

As the students guess the correct holiday, list it on the chalkboard. Later have the students pick out the holidays related to the church only. At this time pass out the calendars and show them the difference between our church calendar and a non-church calendar. Have them go through the calendar and verbally point out the differences.

Examples: Fasting Days, readings, pictures, holy days, holidays. (15 min.)

4. *The Church Calendar Game*: Have students turn to page 32 in the student text. Review the Daghar Feasts (five major feast days) and note the empty spots on the rest of the calendar wheel.

To Play the Game: The students are to fill in the

missing feast days—either individually or, if you prefer, in competition, with the class divided into two or more teams. If teams are formed, scoring may be kept during the game. (One point for each correct answer; see completed calendar wheel on next page.)

Take the time to review the feast days as they are filled in. (For example, discuss the stories associated with the Sundays of Lent.) (20 min.)

5. Closing prayer; dismissal.

Session 2—Jesus Is Named

Key Concepts

1. Jesus was named on the eighth day after his birth.
2. Jesus has many names.
3. Jesus’ various names show us who he is and how we should worship him.

Objectives

Students will

1. Explain that we celebrate Christ’s life on earth all year long with various liturgical commemorations.
2. Describe the significance of naming.
3. Discuss the necessity of celebrating an important event.

Background for Teacher

Read Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 2:21.

Materials Needed

- White construction paper
- Crayons
- Colored pencils
- Magic markers

Procedure

1. Opening prayer. Read aloud the verse in Luke 2:21 (in student text). (5 min.)
2. Stress the importance of Jesus’ name being given by the angel messenger to Joseph in his dream. The name was given by God. Recount the passage from Matthew if necessary.

Explain that Jesus’ name means, “one who takes our sins away” (Yeshua, Hebrew; Hisoos, Armenian). Christ means, “The anointed one.”

Stress the importance of the ceremony involved in the naming. It did not take place immediately at birth but after eight days.

Stress the obedience of Mary and Joseph in follow-