

# RAQUETTE LAKE CHAPEL



Raquette Lake, New York

January 2020

## JANUARY SCRIPTURE

January 1 “The Holy Name”:  
Numbers 6:22-27; Psalm 8;  
Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:15-21

January 5 “The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday  
after Christmas”: Jeremiah  
31:7-14; Psalm 84; Ephesians  
1:3-6,15-19a; Matthew 2:13-  
15,19-23

January 6 “The Epiphany”:  
Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-  
7,10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12;  
Matthew 2:1-12

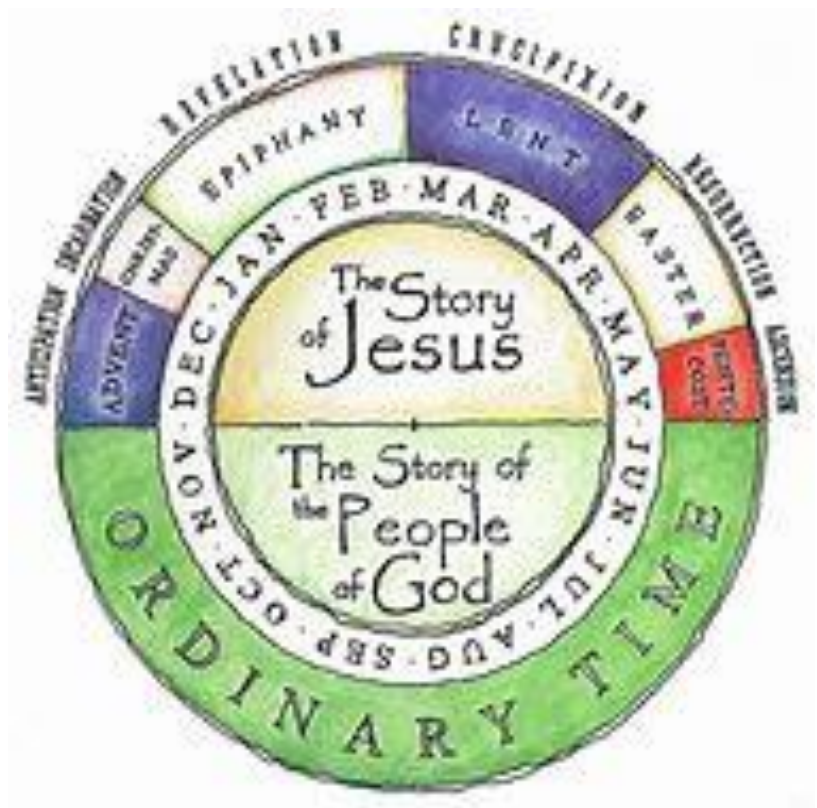
January 12 “The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday  
after The Epiphany” (The  
Baptism of Our Lord): Isaiah  
42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-  
43; Matthew 3:13-17

January 19 “The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday  
after The Epiphany”: Isaiah  
49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-12; 1  
Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-  
42

January 26 “The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday  
after The Epiphany”: Isaiah  
9:1-4; Psalm 27: 1, 5-13: 1  
Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew  
4:12-23

## THE SEASONS OF THE CHURCH

Since the 4<sup>th</sup> century the Christian church has observed a set of “seasons” in the calendar year centered around the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. While this liturgical calendar – or schedule of feasts and festivals – has changed somewhat over time, it remains widely used, and has, as a help for worship and scripture study, The Revised Common Lectionary (see below). The calendar looks basically like this:



The Church Year starts with Advent, followed by Christmas. Then we enter, in order, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, and Ordinary Time. You can see from the diagram and the scripture readings that January is encompassed by Christmas and

Epiphany. In many churches you will see the colors of the seasons displayed on the altar or in the vestments worn by clergy.

**ADVENT:** the first season of the Christian church year, leading up to Christmas and including the four preceding Sundays.

**CHRISTMAS:** the annual Christian festival celebrating Christ's birth, held on December 25 in the Western Church.

**“THE HOLY NAME” CELEBRATION ON JANUARY 1** marks the eighth day after Christmas Day, and the Gospel of Luke records that eight days after his birth, the child was circumcised and given the name Jesus.

**EPIPHANY:** the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles as represented by the Magi (Matthew 2:1–12).

**LENT:** the period preceding Easter that in the Christian Church is devoted to fasting, abstinence, and penitence in commemoration of Christ's fasting in the wilderness. In the Western Church it runs from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday and so includes forty weekdays.

**EASTER:** the most important and oldest festival of the Christian Church, celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ and held (in the Western Church) between March 21 and April 25, on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the northern spring equinox.

**PENTECOST:** the Christian festival celebrating the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples of Jesus after his Ascension, held on the seventh Sunday after Easter.

**ORDINARY TIME:** (maybe the most misunderstood of seasons!) Ordinary Time represents the ordered life of the Church, a period when we live our lives neither in feasting or fasting but living the Gospel and in watchfulness and expectation of the Second Coming of Christ. In this is “ordinary” means *ordered* or *numbered*, and NOT nothing special!

## THE REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY

The Revised Common Lectionary is a set of readings from the Bible for use in Protestant Christian worship and marks observances of Christian festivals and holidays during the year. The RCL is used around the world, and in the United States the following denominations follow the RCL: Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Christian Fellowship of the Unitarian Universalist Association, Christian Reformed Church in North America, Episcopal Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Reformed Church in America, United Church of Christ, and United Methodist Church. When we read from the RCL on Sundays, we can find comfort in joining millions of other Christians around the world with the same scripture in our different Christian gatherings!

**EPIPHANY PRAYER:** *Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.*