

SYMBOLISM OF COLORS

The symbolic meaning of color depends on time, country, culture, traditions and local circumstances. In the Missale Romanum (1570) colors were given a specific meaning, making it easier to recognize characters as Mary and Jesus, and to express emotions like love, suffering, holiness. Color was very helpful in understanding the scenes on mosaics, wall paintings, paintings, statues, icons and stained glass windows. The intensity of color is important; brilliant colors are positive, dull colors are negative. Note: the general symbolic meaning is in brackets ().

Beige; (sand, neutral).

Black; darkness, deepest mourning, deviation, sin.

Blue; deity, eternity, innocence: color of heaven, loyalty, Mary's color (melancholy, sincerity).

Brown; poverty, humility, earth (soundness, dull).

Gold; deity, wealth, (power).

Green; hope, growth, life, future.

Grey; world renunciation (neutral, security, wisdom, luxury, age).

Copper; (unshakable ness, 12.5 years anniversary).

Magenta; (cheerful, exiting, shocking).

Orange; (warmth, wealth, eroticism).

Pink; light breaking through, liturgical color on the third Sunday of Advent (Caudate) and the fourth Sunday of Lent, (Laetare) (soft tender love, happiness).

Purple; mourning, penance, fasting, submission.

Platinum; (70 years anniversary).

Purple; authority, royalty (sensuality, decadence).

Red; love, suffering, sacrifice (struggle, love, joy, passion, courage).

Silver; purity: silver can replace white (trust, 25 years anniversary).

White; joy, feast, truth, purity, liturgical color for the feasts of Christmas, Epiphany, Easter and the Easter period, used at baptisms, weddings and sometimes funerals. (joy, tenderness, love).

Yellow; light, lustre, glory, color of the sun, envy, treason (Easter, spring).

Colors used for certain days of the year in church

The colors listed below are generally used in Roman Catholic churches and are recommended for Protestant churches. The churches of the East do not apply these colors. They use mainly white for festive days.

Advent	purple
3rd Sunday of Advent	pink
Christmas Day	white
Boxing Day	white or red
Epiphany	white
Baptism of the Lord	white or green
Sunday after Epiphany	green
Lent	purple

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4th Sunday of Lent	pink
Palm Sunday	red or purple
White Thursday	white
Good Friday	red, purple or black
Easter Saturday	color change to white
Easter	white
Easter time	white
Ascension day	white
Whitsuntide	red
Sundays after Whitsunday	green

The following colors are generally used for special festive days:

Feasts of the Lord	white - gold
Ember days	purple
Feasts of Mary	white - blue
Martyrs memorial days	red
Saints memorial days	white
Baptisms	white
Confession, confirmation	red - white
Confirmation or installation of office holders	red
Weddings	white - red
Funerals	purple - white -green - black

Symbols for anniversaries

The celebration of an anniversary or a wedding, a job and so on is symbolized by a metal;
 copper = 12.5 years, silver = 25 years, gold = 50 years, platinum = 70 years.