

Church History as compared to the “Seasons”: Taken from Fr. Ken West; former Pastor of St. Thomas More Catholic Church

	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER	NEW SPRING
Dated Events	33-96 50-Council of Jerusalem 64-Rome burns 70-Jerusalem destroyed 96-Clement of Rome's Letters	96-800 313-Edict of Milan 410-Rome destroyed 600-Gregory the Great 800-Leo III crowns Charlemagne	800-1600 880-35 Popes in 150 years 1309-The Avignon Papacy 1378-Miltiple Popes 1517-Reformation 1560-Council of Trent	1600-1960 1598-Edict of Nantes 1869-1 st Vatican Council 1943-Pius XII Encyclical on the Bible	1960-& on 1962-2 nd Vatican Council 1968-Paul VI Encyclical " <u>On Human Life</u> " 1965-John Paul II Encyclical " <u>The Gospel of Life</u> "
Sacramental	Repentance/Baptism Breaking of Bread Anointing of the sick	Order of Catechumen: Baptism-Confirmation-Eucharist Order of Penitent	Marriage a Sacrament 1439 Private repeatable Confession begins in Ireland & spreads to whole Church	Sacraments standardized for world-wide uniformity Infant Baptism is the norm The Mass a private prayer	The Sacraments are revised & Baptism & Eucharist regain their Biblical pre-eminence RCIA developed
Leadership	Apostles Elders Deacons	Holy Orders: Bishop, Priest, Deacon	Order of Deacon disappears as a separate Order	Papal Infallibility declared under strict circumstances	Laity's role emphasized Clerical vocations a concern
Doctrinal System	Understanding of Jesus based on Hebrew Scriptural images	New classic formulations of belief, our Creeds, based on Biblical & non-Biblical language	Trent settles a comprehensive Doctrine in reaction to the Reformation; no new formulations are allowed	Council of Trent's doctrinal pronouncements strictly enforced	Theologians begin to develop new ways of understanding the Faith
	<p>10 Persecutions</p>	<p>7 Great Councils</p>	<p>Dark ages Renaissance/Enlightenment</p>	<p>Industrial Revolution</p>	<p>High Tech</p>
	PAGANISM		CHRISTENDOM		NEW PAGANISM

Notes from Fr. Ken West's presentation he compared the History of the Church to the seasons.

The 1st period of time where Jesus walked the earth & the faith was 'blooming' all over was like a real 'spring time' in the Church;

Next came the summer where there was more growth & enjoyment of the fruits of the spring time;

then came 'the fall' – in more than one sense of the word – where we got off track, went through the 'dark ages' & corruption etc. Luther, a Catholic Priest, protested (hence the name "Protestants") the awful things happening in the Church during this period & called for the Church to 'Reform'...hence 'Reformation'. This reformation involved the Catholic Church getting it's act together & better educating her priests etc & finally putting a 'freeze' on the now reformed Church for a time.

Thus, we've now entered the winter season. Fr. Ken explained that just like the winter, the freeze kills off the 'germs' or the bad stuff & allows some consistency to develop.

Over time, this freeze gave way to a New Spring time with the 2nd Vatican Council where the 'windows & doors of the Church' were thrown open to allow for a new breeze to flow through. Vatican II was the only council held to date to simply have a fresh look at things as opposed to councils of the past where they generally dealt with specific issues of the day.