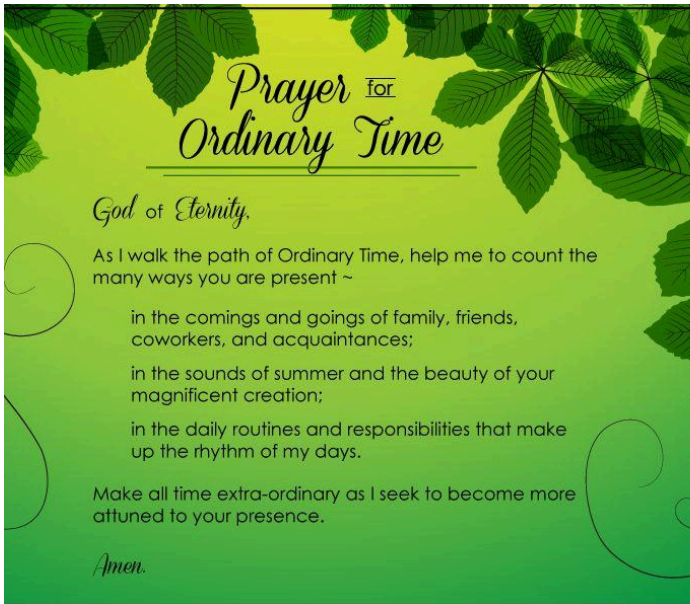


St. John's Newsletter



Find Extraordinary Growth in Ordinary Time



In one liturgical year, Catholics recall and celebrate the whole life of Jesus Christ. The Scripture readings are based on the life of Christ and the celebration of his life in the liturgy. It is easy to identify the purpose of the seasons of Advent, Lent, Christmas and Easter, but the longest season is that of **Ordinary Time**. During Ordinary Time we celebrate the whole life of Christ and learn the meaning of living as his disciples. It is an extraordinary time to learn and follow the teachings of Christ in our daily lives and to grow as his disciples.

When we think of the word ordinary, our mind goes to definitions such as typical, regular, plain or routine. Why would the church dedicate an entire season to this? The *ordinary* here does not refer to a season of dull routine but rather the listing of *ordinal*, or *sequential*, numbers. This is what is meant by the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, etc. (Interestingly, there is no First Sunday in Ordinary Time in the liturgical calendar, because it is replaced by the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.) Rather than making a statement about degrees of importance, the term Ordinary Time refers to the **order** of Sundays in the church year that do not fall into the major liturgical seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, or Easter.

The season of Ordinary Time consists of 33 or 34 weeks and is divided into two parts. The Roman Missal – Third Edition instructs that Ordinary Time “begins on the Monday following the Sunday after January 6 and continues until the beginning of Lent; it begins again on the Monday after Pentecost Sunday and ends on the Saturday before the First Sunday of Advent.” Prior to the liturgical reforms of the Second Vatican Council, these periods on the calendar were referred to as “the season after Epiphany” and the “the season after Pentecost.” Although Ordinary Time takes place in two parts, it is still considered a single season.

The richness of Ordinary Time is found in the opportunity to know Christ more intimately in the everyday realities of life. The gospel readings proclaimed on these Sundays reveal the teaching and healing and mission of Christ, allowing us to better understand God who came to Earth to show us how to treat one another and to save us.

Ordinary Time is anything but monotonous. It is a time of conversion where we grow into who we are called to be by imitating the lived reality of Jesus.

Sources:

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Volume 17 - May 2026- St. John's Newsletter is a once-a-month publication aimed at providing you with items of interest about our Catholic faith. If there is a topic you are interested in, please contact the parish office and we will try to address it in future issues. – Submitted by Mary Jo Peters