



What's What

A weekly communication that provides an opportunity for our faith community to grow together in faith.

What is Ordinary Time?

The Church calendar, called a Liturgical Calendar is broken into seasons, much like our secular calendar. While our secular calendar has Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall, the Church Calendar has Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Ordinary Time.

The word ordinary in Ordinary Time does not mean regular, or un-special. The word ordinary is derived from the root of the word ordinal, or numbered. So ordinary time is Numbered

or Counted Time.

In the Liturgical Calendar Ordinary time is the only season that is not celebrated in one block. Instead it is celebrated in two blocks. The first block begins with the day following the Baptism of the Lord (after Christmas) and going until the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday (often called Mardi Gras). The second block begins the Monday after Pentecost and continues until the first Sunday of Advent (which marks

the beginning of a new Liturgical Year).

The actual number of weeks of Ordinary Time in any given year can total 33 or 34 depending on the year. When there are only 33 weeks of Ordinary Time, the week that would normally follow Pentecost Sunday is omitted. For example, in 2008, the Sunday before Ash Wednesday was the 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time, but the day after Pentecost Sunday began the 6th Week in Ordinary Time.

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Ordinary Time
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Things to talk about:

- What are some things in church that help you to remember that we've returned to Ordinary Time?
- Ordinary time is a time when we are living out our faith on a daily basis—who are you doing this?
- How can you make Ordinary Time extra-ordinary?

Marking Ordinary Time

Ordinary Time is a good reminder to slow down and take a look at how we are living out our faith every day. Here are some suggestions for making the most of Ordinary Time:

- Look through your photo albums or watch home movies. Take special notice of the “ordinary” times you’ve documented, such as playing in the backyard, a day at the pool or beach, etc.
- Try to recall some of your most cherished memories. Are they from major life events, holidays or special occasions? Or are they memories of everyday occurrences? For instance, while I certainly cherish events in my life such as my wedding and the births of my children, one of my most cherished memories is when my oldest sister, Beth, sat and carefully glued back together a ceramic frog of mine that had been dropped and shattered. It was a visual demonstration to me of compassion, patience and love.
- During this period of Ordinary Time, find ways to make the ordinary extra-ordinary. Attend Mass at a different parish or at a different time. Say family prayers at a time other than you normally would, such as before dinner. Perhaps gather and say family prayers before bed. Or gather outside on the patio for prayers. Find different ways to change your faith routine.
- Remind yourself to slow down and appreciate life’s ordinary moments. Take time to read a book, walk in your garden, hug or kiss your kids or grandkids, enjoy the rain or the feel of the grass on your bare feet.

*From “Ordinary Time:Anything But Ordinary”
by Susan Hines-Brigger, www.americancatholic.com*

There is no First Sunday in Ordinary time. This is because the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord is still in the Christmas Season. Ordinary time begins the Monday after this feast. But since Sunday, and not Monday, is the first day of the week, the following Sunday starts the second week of Ordinary Time, and is therefore called the 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time.

During Ordinary Time, the ministers (priests and deacons) wear green vestments. Green is used as a color symbolic of growth. These green vestments suggest that this is a season of growing in our faith, and of living our faith more fully. During Ordinary Time the Gospel readings focus on the activities of Jesus during his time on earth. These readings come from the synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke).

Our liturgical calendar is also broken into three different years, called A, B and C. During Year A, the readings in Ordinary Time come from the Gospel according to Matthew. During Year B they come from the Gospel according to Mark and during Year C the Gospel according to Luke is used. Since 2008 is a Liturgical Year A, the readings in Ordinary time will come from the Gospel according to Matthew.

During Ordinary Time we focus on various aspects of our Faith, especially the mission of the church in the world. However, Ordinary Time can also be used to focus on specific themes of interest or importance to the local parish or diocese. This means that there is more flexibility for the parish during Ordinary Time than during other liturgical seasons.



Saint in the Spotlight—St. Boniface (672?-754)

This Thursday, June 5, is the Memorial of Saint Boniface.

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How absolutely necessary this orthodoxy and fidelity were is borne out by the conditions he found on his first missionary journey in 719 at the request of Pope Gregory II. Paganism was a way of life. What Christianity he did find had either lapsed into paganism or was mixed with error. The clergy were

mainly responsible for these latter conditions since they were in many instances uneducated, lax and questionably obedient to their bishops. In particular instances their very ordination was questionable.

These are the conditions that Boniface was to report in 722 on his first return visit to Rome. The Holy Father instructed him to reform the German Church. The pope sent letters of recommendation to religious and civil leaders. Boniface later admitted that his work would have been unsuccessful, from a human viewpoint, without a letter of safe-conduct from Charles Martel, the powerful Frankish ruler, grandfather of Charlemagne. Boniface was finally made a regional bishop and authorized to organize the whole German Church. He was eminently successful.

In the Frankish kingdom, he met great problems because of lay interference in bishops' elections, the worldliness of the clergy and lack of papal control.

During a final mission to the Frisians, he and 53 companions were massacred while he was preparing converts for Confirmation.

In order to restore the Germanic Church to its fidelity to Rome and to convert the pagans, he had been guided by two principles. The first was to restore the obedience of the clergy to their bishops in union with the pope of Rome. The second was the establishment of many houses of prayer which took the form of Benedictine monasteries. A great number of Anglo-Saxon monks and nuns followed him to the continent. He introduced Benedictine nuns to the active apostolate of education.

Anyone, however, who receives this sacrament of unity and does not keep the bond of peace, does not receive it to his profit, but as a testimony against himself.

www.americancatholic.org/Features/SaintOfDay



Lord Jesus

I know that all human relations take time if they are to grow and deepen. This is also true of my relations with You, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, which must grow over the course of my life.

However, this growth is not automatic; time alone means nothing unless I add earnest efforts to it.

You have inspired Your Church to set aside special times when this growth can develop more intensely - the special seasons of the Church Year.

If I fail to move toward You during these times, I waste precious opportunities and endanger my spiritual life. Help me to take them seriously and make a real attempt to use them well, so that I may grow into the person You want me to be.

New Saint Joseph People's Prayer Book

Want to know more?

Would you like to know more about Ordinary Time? Check out the following books and websites for more information:

- www.churchyear.net/ordinary.html
- www.americancatholic.org/Messenger/Jun2005/Family.asp
- "US Catholic Catechism for Adults", USCCB, 2006

These are just suggestions. In providing these we assume no responsibility for, nor do we necessarily endorse these books or websites, their content, or their sponsoring organizations.

"What's What" is a publication of the Youth Ministry Department of St Mary, Canandaigua, and St Bridget, Bloomfield.

Our Youth Ministry Mission Statement [Draft]:

Building on the mission of our parishes to follow the way of Christ in our thoughts, words, and deeds, and to make Christ more fully present in all who live within our community, the Youth Ministry mission is to empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in the world today; to affirm the gifts of our youth and provide opportunities for young people to share their gifts with the larger community; and to meet the religious, spiritual and social needs of all youth with the committed leadership, guidance and support of our parish family, providing an opportunity for our entire faith community to grow together in Christian faith.