



The *ordinary* in Ordinary Time 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, 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.

It is easy to mistakenly think the liturgical year is about sanctifying time.

The truth, however, is that the liturgical year is about growing in relationship with Jesus Christ.

The richness of Ordinary Time is found in the opportunity to know Christ more intimately in the everyday realities of life.

The scripture proclaimed in Ordinary Time reveals the teaching and healing and mission of Christ, allowing us to better understand God who became human.

We learn that Christ is about humility rather than pride, vulnerability rather than power.

We learn that Christ is about including the excluded, eating with social and religious outcasts, and dismantling structures of sin and injustice.

We learn that Christ is about self-giving love that is only possible through authentic relationship.

Ordinary Time is anything but monotonous.

These are the days where we grow into who we are called to be by imitating the lived reality of Jesus.

It is during the Season of Ordinary Time that the priest wears green vestments. This is a symbol of growing.

We can compare Ordinary Time to the time when Jesus and His disciples were in a boat, "Jesus was in the stern, asleep on a cushion" (Mark 4:38) and a storm broke out. Our normal lives aren't always stormy, but there are times when we feel that the Lord isn't here helping us on our journey. But He is always present to us. Ordinary Time is our usual way of life that we go forward, working for God.

Sometimes we are tested, sometimes it can be tiring, but we always are nourished and never alone.

The concluding prayers of the Mass call us to "*Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life*" is our work especially in Ordinary Time.