

Catholic's Liturgical Calendar - Ordinary Time

The day after Pentecost, right before we step into Ordinary Time, we're reminded that we are not alone. We've witnessed victory over sin and death. We've embraced the mission; we're ready to move forward into the world that is hungry for what the Lord would share through us. What does it look like to respond to Jesus, to be shaped as a disciple day in and day out? Mary is here, teaching us what it looks like to say yes. June 1st was our Feast Day, The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church.

Throughout the year, the Mystery of Christ is revealed. Beginning after the Feast of Our Lord's Baptism, Ordinary Time focuses on Christ's Baptism and then delves into His Preaching Ministry. The Scriptural readings at Mass focus on Jesus' Teaching through parables and His Miracles.

Ordinary Time is intended to remind us that Jesus is with us throughout all of our daily trials and triumphs. We should be striving to reflect Jesus' Teaching with our actions every day. It is a time to focus on Faith and family...brushing up on Catechism, building our repertoire of prayers, delving into Scripture and forming habits that can carry us through all the Seasons! The days are marked by readings from Jesus' public ministry. Many of the readings are from the Gospel of Luke, which is known as the "gospel of compassion."

One way to make Ordinary Time extra ordinary is to spruce up your prayer table, or prayer area, with extra ordinary items that we should be interacting with during Ordinary Time. Suggestions are pictures or information about saints and their feast days, seasonal flowers, banners about the holy family and don't forget your green table cloth. Green seen everywhere in plants and trees, symbolizes life and hope.

What ways will you and your family mark this liturgical season of growing closer to knowing Jesus together as a family? How will you make ordinary time extraordinary this year? Listen to the gospel and ask yourself, "Did you hear the message of life and hope that so beautifully represents Ordinary Time?"

Holy Trinity

One God, three persons. What a great mystery for us to seek and understand! The greatest mystery is to explain how God is one substance yet three distinct persons. To better understand the Holy Trinity, Jesus sent out the disciples to baptize in the *name* (not the *names*) of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28). God is one substance, but he is also distinctly three persons.

Examples:

- Shamrock - 3 leaves yet one
- Egg - shell, yolk, whites
- Apple - core, skin, main fruit

"It is the Father who generates, the Son who is begotten, and the Holy Spirit who proceeds" (Fourth Lateran Council). Why is this important for our understanding of God? God is love (1 John 4:8). He is a communion of persons and the perfect model of love.

A good visual understanding is to take a copy of the Nicene (or Apostles) Creed and three different colored highlighters, colored pencils or crayons. Distinguish between the three sections of the creed and label them Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (Optional: you can also use a copy of our Baptismal promises showing how we profess our faith in the Trinitarian God when we renew our baptismal vows.)