

TREASURES of OUR FAITH

By:

Deacon Ryan Adams

Greetings brothers and sisters, last Sunday I was stopped by a member of our parish community and asked why we refer to certain parts of the year as just 'Ordinary'. They asked if I would write a piece about 'Ordinary time'.

Because of the connection we have to the term "ordinary" in English, many people may think that Ordinary Time refers to the parts of the Church year where there isn't much going on, but nothing could be further from the truth.

Ordinary Time is called 'ordinary' because the weeks are numbered. The Latin word *ordinalis*, which refers to numbers in a series, stems from the Latin word *ordo*, from which we get the English word *order*. In Latin, the name of this season is *Tempus per annum*, which translates to '*time during the year*'.

Ordinary Time is that part of the Liturgical Year that lies outside the seasons of Lent-Easter and Advent-Christmas. In Ordinary Time, the Church celebrates the mystery of Christ not in one specific aspect but in all its aspects. The readings during the liturgies of Ordinary Time help to instruct us on how to live out our Christian faith in our daily lives.

During Ordinary time, (except for specific Feast Days) the vestments you'll see the Priest and Deacon wearing are Green, the color of hope, life and growth, which symbolize what each of us are called to live out.

Ordinary Time is in fact, the ordered life of the Church, that period in which we live out our lives, paying close attention each week to the examples that Jesus gave us through His ministry and which we hear about in the Gospels. The rhythm of this liturgical season reflects the rhythm of our lives.

During this season of Ordinary Time, let us spend some time meditating on the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and reflecting and working on ways on how we can all go forth and live out Christ's Light and Love in the world.

