

## Ordinary Time



Quite a bit of the church's liturgical year is taken up by a season called "Ordinary Time". What does that mean? The word "ordinary" in popular usage describes things that are nondescript or dull but ordinary means customary, regular, and orderly. The Church's use of the term "Ordinary" comes from the word *ordinal* which means numbered. So, Ordinary Time is the numbered weeks (usually 34) that are not a part of the other seasons of the Church - Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, and Easter. The season of Ordinary Time begins on Monday after the Sunday following Jan. 6 and continues until the day before Ash Wednesday. It begins again on the Monday after Pentecost and ends on the Saturday before the first Sunday of Advent. The last Sunday is celebrated as the Reign of Christ the King and is the last Sunday of our church year. There is nothing ordinary about Ordinary Time - it is a time set aside for reflecting on and celebrating our call to follow Jesus day by day just as the disciples did. We focus on that public ministry of Jesus through the readings of the new cycle's Gospels. The overall purpose of the season is to elaborate the themes of salvation history and draw closer to God as we find our place in God's plan of salvation.