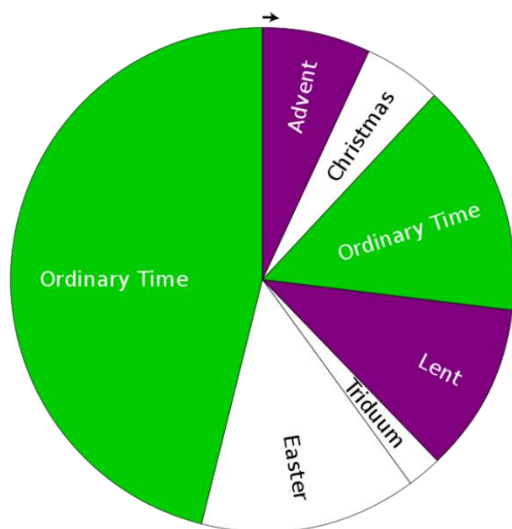


SAINT ANNE OF THE SUNSET

Religious Education Weekly Newsletter
For the Week of January 14, 2024 (Sunday)

**FROM CARMEN PERLAS
COORDINATOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**



Dear Religious Education Family and friends,

There is really nothing 'ordinary' during the Ordinary Time in our Liturgical Calendar! As the Christmas tide officially ended with the Feast of the Epiphany last Sunday, this Sunday is the beginning of Ordinary time in our Liturgical Calendar. While Advent, Christmas Time, Lent and Easter Time focus on the central mysteries of Our Lord's life, Ordinary Time, on the other hand, takes us through the life of Jesus.

This is a time for reflection, for inner growth and spiritual maturation for all of us. Just listen to this Sunday's Responsorial Psalm, and you will understand what I mean: **HERE I AM LORD, I COME TO DO YOUR WILL.** A closer reflection on these words leads one to think God's will for me. It is living a holy and sanctified life in obedience to Him and as the psalm says "O my God is my delight and your law is within my heart."

My dear parents, as a mother myself it is my hope and prayer that every child in our Religious Education Program will continue to strive for holiness in their life. You are their example and hope in finding the truth and living a life of grace. And I know, from experience that it can never be that easy and simple – for if it were, then anyone can be a parent. But no, God chose you to be the father and mother of your child and not anyone else and that's because you are special in God's eyes that only He knows why. Keep up the good work of discipleship that only parents can give.

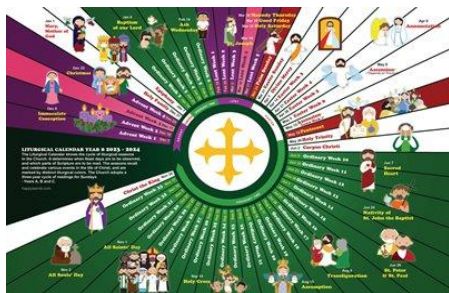
REFLECTIONS ON THE READINGS ON THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



In today's Gospel reading, Saint John the Baptist pointed Jesus Christ to two of Jesus's disciples Andrew and John (believed to be the author of this gospel). As our Lord walked by, John says a very familiar reference to our Lord: "Behold the Lamb of God." Already I believed that Saint John was also pointing to what he might already know about the events in Jesus' life particularly, our Lord being offered as a sacrificial offering, just like the lamb slaughtered in the Old Testament. Jesus seeing that they were following Him turned around and asked them a question that many of us have been asking all along in our lives: "What are you looking for?" I believe it is an existential question for anyone who wants to be a disciple of Christ

– what is it that we seek when we commit to be His followers. Our Lord asked this question perhaps to ascertain what their motives really are in following Him. After asking Him where he was staying, and Jesus inviting them to his dwelling place, a significant change happened in the faith of these disciples. When they met him for the first time, they called Him, “Rabbi.” However, being with Him for a few hours that day, Andrew, finding his brother Simon (who would be called Cephas), told him that they have found the Messiah. One should note that this is a leap of faith – from Christ the teacher (man), to Christ the Messiah (God).

UNDERSTANDING THE LITURGICAL CALENDAR



The liturgical year is made up of six seasons:

Advent - four weeks of preparation before the celebration of Jesus' birth

Christmas - recalling the Nativity of Jesus Christ and his manifestation to the peoples of the world

Lent - a six-week period of penance before Easter

Sacred Paschal Triduum - the holiest "Three Days" of the Church's year, where the Christian people recall the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus

Easter - 50 days of joyful celebration of the Lord's resurrection from the dead and his sending forth of the Holy Spirit

Ordinary Time - divided into two sections (one span of 4-8 weeks after Christmas Time and another lasting about six months after Easter Time), wherein the faithful consider the fullness of Jesus' teachings and works among his people

The mystery of Christ, unfolded through the cycle of the year, calls us to live his mystery in our own lives. This call is best illustrated in the lives of Mary and the saints, celebrated by the Church throughout the year. There is no tension between the mystery of Christ and the celebration of the saints, but rather a marvelous harmony. The Blessed Virgin Mary is joined by an inseparable bond to the saving work of her Son, and the feasts of all the saints proclaim the wonderful works of Christ in his servants and offer the faithful fitting examples for their imitation. (USCCB)

UPCOMING EVENTS

PARENTS' MEETING (FOR FIRST RECONCILIATION FOR 2ND GRADE PARENTS):

January 17, 2024, Wednesday at 7:00 pm (Saint Anne School Cafeteria)

FAMILY MASS

January 21. Sunday at 10:00 am (Church)
Catechists Meeting at 12:20 pm

CONFIRMATION PARENTS MEETING

January 28, Sunday at 11:15 a.m.
(Parish Rectory Conference Room)

Please note there will be no religious education classes this day

ASH WEDNESDAY – FEBRUARY 14

A Day of Fast and Abstinence

RITE OF ENROLLMENT CEREMONY FOR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CANDIDATES AND FAMILY MASS

February 18, Sunday at 10:00 a.m.
(Church)

FIRST RECONCILIATION

February 24 (Saturday) at 10:00 am
(Church)