

LITURGY BYTES

Winter Ordinary Time



Now that we have celebrated the feast of the Epiphany, a/k/a “Little Christmas,” we move back into winter Ordinary Time which lasts about seven weeks. This season is more than just the change of color inside the church to green. It is our opportunity to hear once again about the ministry of Jesus and his teachings.

While “ordinary” in name, Ordinary Time is anything but ordinary, as it continues our celebrations of and participation in the Paschal mystery of Christ. We walk with Jesus during his public ministry and listen to his teaching and preaching. We are one with Jesus as he heals the sick, cures the lame, and raises his friend (Lazarus) from the dead.

We also stand with him when his followers listen to his word and when his enemies chase him out of town. Ordinary Time can give us an opportunity to think about the many ways our own lives are interweaved within Christ’s story and importantly how we are changed by our relationship with him.

We are also called year-round to consider the ways that the Eucharist demands our response in the form of action. The Mass brings us together and sends us forth to do the work of the Gospel each week.

As we enter winter Ordinary Time, perhaps we could reflect on and even share with others the ways that the Eucharist sends us forth. Can we loudly proclaim: “Here I am Lord, send me!”

May you all have a healthy, blessed, and safe week ahead! ~~ *Michele Hall*