

Notes from the Liturgist

ORDINARY TIME

After we celebrated the Feast of the Epiphany (last Sunday) and the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (last Monday), we are now switching to a new season of the Church's Calendar: the Ordinary Time. This cycle is the longest of the church's calendar. The first part of the Ordinary Time falls right after Christmas Season: from the Baptism of the Lord for several weeks until the day before Ash Wednesday. Lent and Easters cut the season and then returning after Pentecost and ends the last Sunday before Advent, the Feast of Christ the King.

The Church calls this season Ordinary Time because those periods are outside of the major liturgical seasons. The weeks of the Ordinary Time are chronologically ordered thus, the number of weeks of Ordinary Time represent the ordered life of the Church.

"Ordo" is a root word for "*ordinalis*", meaning order. Ordinary Time is a time of reflecting on the mystery of Christ's life and growing as a Church. When we celebrate the Ordinary Time, priests wear green vestments to signify growth and eternal life.

Thus, for us Catholics, Ordinary Time is still very significant. It is the Church's Liturgical season where Christ walks into our journey and transforms every human heart. – Ace Tupasi