

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



**The Liturgical Year –
The Sanctorial Cycle**

As defined by the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, the **Liturgical Year** is "The celebration throughout the year of the mysteries of the Lord's birth, life, death, and Resurrection in such a way that the entire year becomes a 'year of the Lord's grace.' Thus the cycle of the liturgical year and the great feasts constitute the basic rhythm of the Christian's life of prayer."

Generally speaking, the liturgical calendar of the Church consists of two main parts: Proper and Ordinary. Proper means any part of the Liturgical Year that is dedicated to a proper or particular season or celebration. Examples of Proper Time would be Advent and the Advent season, Christmas and the Christmas season, Epiphany and the Epiphany season, Lent, Easter and the Easter season, Trinity Sunday, Corpus Christi Sunday, Christ the King, etc. As you may have noticed there are liturgical colors associated with proper seasons and feasts: purple, white, gold, and red.

Ordinary Time in the Church's year is less solemn but not less important. The focus of Ordinary Time is not a particular season or feast but the entirety of the mystery of salvation taken in small segments over the entire year. Throughout the Liturgical Year, the daily liturgy prays about and reflects upon some aspect or theme of the mystery of Christ's love and salvation.

Within these two overarching areas of Proper and Ordinary, the Church year also includes a "Sanctorial Cycle" (sanctorial meaning "saintly" or "holy"). Throughout Proper and Ordinary Time, the Church celebrates feasts and memorials of the saints. Some of the saints and their feast days are universally celebrated as obligatory: for example, Saints Peter and Paul on June 29, St. Joseph on March 19, St. John the Baptist [his birth on June 24 and his death on August 29] are celebrated as obligatory throughout the world. Other saints' days are celebrated as optional. In certain countries a particular saint or feast day may be obligatory, and in other countries, it may be optional. In Ireland, where Saint Patrick is the patron saint, his feast day of March 17 is obligatory. In the United States, it is an optional memorial. The importance of the Sanctorial Cycle is that it reflects prayerfully in the liturgy how the mystery of Christ is lived in a very concrete way in the life of a particular human being and becomes a clear model of lived holiness for us.

The origins of the Sanctorial Cycle began in the early Church by the Church's commitment to honor the lives of martyrs who were persecuted and died for their faith. Church martyrs were people like St. Agatha, St. Ignatius of Antioch, St. Clement, St. Thomas Moore. Following the martyrs, the Church recognized "confessors" as another group of holy men and women who gave extraordinary witness to Christ. "Confessor" is a title of honor to designate those brave champions of the Faith who had confessed Christ publicly in times of persecution and had been punished with imprisonment, torture, exile, or labor in the mines, remaining faithful in their confession until the end of their lives. Examples of confessors would be: St. Cyprian and St. Jerome.

(continued in next column)

This Week at St. AJ

Saturday, July 10

9:00AM Mass *Pro-Life Liturgy and Vigil*
NO 4:00PM Confessions for Summer – By Request or Appointment
NO 5:30PM Vigil Mass for Summer – Resumes Saturday, Sept. 4

The Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, July 11

10:00AM Mass *Rose and Joseph Candeloro & Maryann DeMarco*
Catholic Forum meets today after 10:00 Mass in Newman Center.
11:30AM Mass *Holy Souls in Purgatory*
5:00PM Mass *Intentions of Parishioners and Benefactors*
No 10:00PM Mass for Summer – Resumes Sunday, September 5

Monday, July 12

NO 7:30 AM Mass for Summer – Resumes Tuesday, September 7
1:00PM Mass Celebrated at Drexel Chapel Monday - Thursday

Tuesday, July 13

12:05PM Mass *Memory of Ed and Manya*

Wednesday, July 14

12:30PM to 2:00PM Church is open today. Please ring Rectory bell

Thursday, July 15

12:05PM Mass *In Honor of the Blessed Mother*
1:00PM Mass *Memory of Mary Pat and Brian*

Friday, July 16

12:05PM Mass *Gail Carney*
No 1:00PM Mass at Drexel on Fridays during Summer term

Saturday, July 17

9:00AM Mass *Holy Souls in Purgatory*

Liturgical Year – Sanctorial Cycle (continued)

Another category of saints is "Apologist" - men and women who were able to give clear, reasonable, and philosophical articulation of the Faith and engage in debate with detractors. St. Augustine was certainly the greatest apologist of the early Church. Another category is "Intercessor" - men and women who were recognized as having extraordinary protective power and influence against evil and enemies [St. Sebastian].

The Church eventually began to recognize the saintliness of men and women who lived extraordinary lives of holiness and were recognized for their charity, chastity, compassion, and poverty (men and women such as St. Martin of Tours, St. Therese of Lisieux, St. John of the Cross, St. Bernard of Clairvaux). Many of the people in this category founded religious orders (Ignatius of Loyola, Benedict, Francis of Assisi). Some were extraordinary theologians and spiritual teachers (St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Catherine of Sienna). It was the custom in certain countries or even in local villages where saints lived, to honor extraordinary individuals with holy days on their anniversaries where work ceased and the rhythm of the day was devoted to Mass, prayers, devotions and festivities (the origin of the secular "holiday"). Along with the practice of liturgical feast days, there grew up the practices of relics, sacred images, particular devotions, litanies, and customs (foods and decorations) – all with the intent and desire to get in touch with the charisma and holiness that animated a saintly man or woman.

Words of Wisdom to Reflect Upon

"Here is a test to find out whether your mission on earth is finished: If you are alive...it isn't."

Richard Bach

"The greatest use of your life is to spend it for something that will outlast it."

William James

"We don't receive wisdom; we must discover it for ourselves after a journey that no one can take for us or spare us."

Marcel Proust