

## **What is Ordinary Time and why is it called that?** **This is the Weekend of the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary time.**

Man was made for seasons, and seasons for man. This is true of all kinds of seasons, but the crackling clarity of Fall has brought it once again to mind. The changing of the seasons reminds us of the passing of our lives.

### **The Seasons of Nature**

The most universal of the seasons are the seasons of the year. In each there is both a mood and an invitation to reflection which has been part of the wisdom of man from the beginning. Every age and every culture recognizes the new birth of Spring, Summer's strength, the glorious decline of Fall, and Winter's death. The seasons are tuned to the mysteries of life. Nature's cycle brings a certain inevitable understanding—sometimes joyous, often poignant—even to urbanites.

Most of us are able to relive this cycle many times, which is certainly a blessing, especially when we consider how often we realize too late that we have rushed distractedly through a season which is now passing away, an occasion of regret rather than joy. This experience should be a lesson in life, teaching us the importance of recognizing the different periods of our time on earth: the need to reflect on and capture the spirit of each, and to live appropriately.

### **The Seasons of Life**

When we are young, we are in a hurry to grow old. During our Summer strength, we are much too busy. In our maturity, we agonize over lost purpose. And as we decline, we so often wish to return to youth. It is part of the difficulty of being human to struggle against the obvious: "For everything, there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1).

The key is to understand what matter or purpose suits each time or season. This is extraordinarily difficult because it requires three very rare commodities: peace, discernment and reliable instruction. Left to ourselves, most of us would never become wiser than nature forces us to be through her largely inchoate discipline and charm. We would doubtless gain some inkling of the importance of nurturing the young, of using our abilities to create and build, of directing others in our maturity, of distilling and passing on our reflections as we age.

But to what end? So that the seasons can go round and round again in what some have called the wheel of time? So that we can die and be forgotten, as meaningless as the dust from which we came? This is indeed the wisdom of those who think they have been left to themselves. How very fortunate it is not so.

### **The Seasons of God**

Every true season is made by God. This first lesson of nature, which speaks so eloquently of a Creator, is by no means the least important. It ought to lead us to wonder whether God does not somehow create and orchestrate the seasons of our lives as He does the seasons of the year. >p5

**Mon. 02/10**    **A Day of Prayer for Victims of Cancer**  
 Feast            Saint Scholastica, Virgin  
 8:00 AM Mass    Theresa McCall, M/M Thomas Heasley, Jr.  
**Tues. 02/11**    **A Day of Prayer for Victims of Heart Diseases**  
 Feast            Our Lady of Lourdes  
 8:00 AM Mass    Stanley Wilinski, Janice Jorkasky  
**Wed. 02/12**    **A Day of Prayer for Victims of Arthritis**  
 Feast            Weekday  
 8:00 AM Mass    Janet Pufka, Sue, Bob, and Ryan Baranick  
**Thur. 02/13**    **A Day of Prayer for Victims of Nervous Disorders**  
 Feast            Weekday  
 8:00 AM Mass    Louis Mangiacarne, Gary and Roseanne Rhone  
**Fri. 02/14**    **A Day of Prayer for Victims of Emotional Disorders**  
 Feast            Saints Cyril, Monk, and Methodius, Bishop  
 8:00 AM Mass    Christina Flanagan, Louise Marshman  
**Sat. 02/15**    **A Day of Prayer for Victims of Diabetes**  
 Feast            Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
 4:30 PM Mass    Denise Keagy, Tom Foor and Family  
**Sun. 02/16**    **A Day of Prayer for Victims of Addictions**  
 Feast            Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
 9:00 AM Mass    Helena Frederick, C. Smith  
 11:00 AM Mass    Bill Conrad, M/M Michael Byrne

*Lord  
 Jesus  
 Christ  
 Son  
 Of  
 God  
 Have  
 Mercy  
 On  
 Me  
 A  
 Sinner*

**Happy Birthday:**

02/10 Lorraine Shuma  
 02/14 Linda Sisto  
        Dan Stitt  
 02/15 Mike Mickey  
        Alfred Sisto  
 02/16 Jayden Starr  
 02/17 Marci Bradford  
        Gene Summers

**Wedding Anniversaries**

02/10 Tom and Lisa Levine

*Our Lady of Fatima Pleaded That we pray the  
 Holy Rosary Daily  
 At O.L.F. before each Mass and privately from  
 8:30am to 7:00pm*

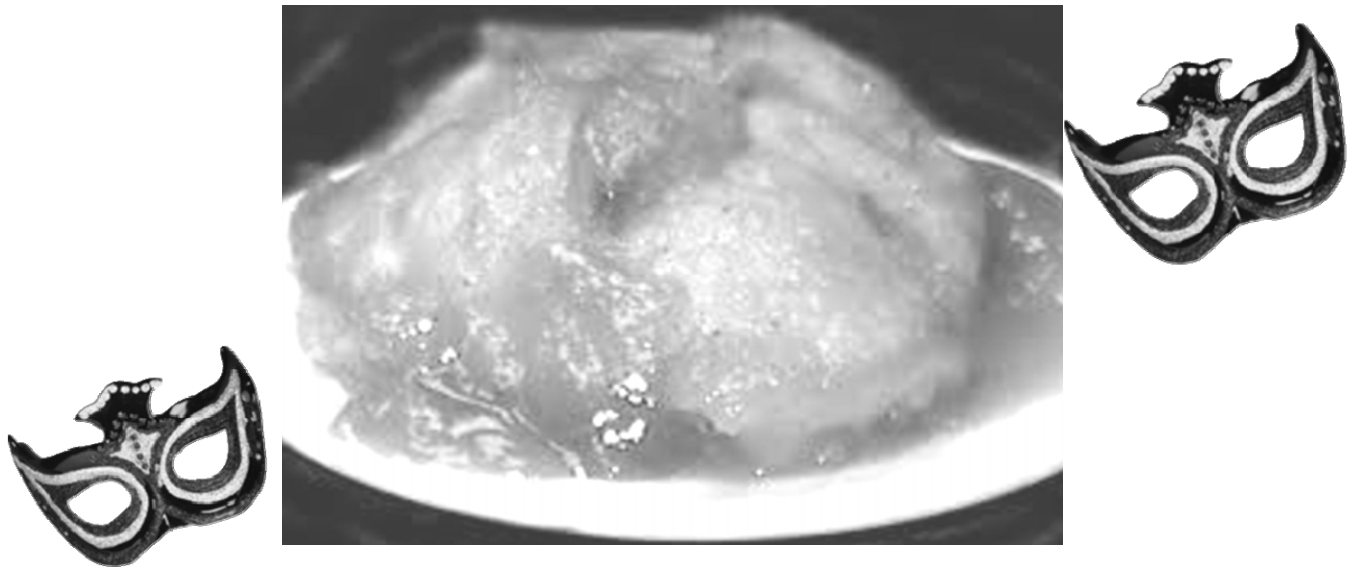
**MONEY MATTERS**

**Presentation of the Lord (February 2, 2014)**

200 people Celebrated Liturgy at O.L.F. contributing \$ 2,295.60 of which \$ 137.60 accounted for non-envelope contributions.

# Envelopes In Circulation	192	# Used	91	# Unused	101
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Collection One Year Ago = \$	2,327.00	St. Leo Camp payment	\$809.39
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*Mardi Gras*  
*with*  
*Apple Dumplings*

Individually, Locally Homemade, Sugar or Sugar-Free, In Microwavable containers

**\$3.75 each**

Order in Church Vestibule Today or Next two Weekends  
Or call the Rectory 814-942-0371

Pay for and pickup in OLF Vestibule on March 1 and 2

Sorry, no orders taken after February 23

The other side of this page references a parish fundraiser in which everybody is a winner. You can't lose! The ad offers a terrific opportunity for all "players" to welcome Lent by celebrating Mardi Gras in just the right way - catering to all those cravings one is about to give up for the next 40 days.

Last week we celebrated Super Bowl Sunday by having a lot of "players" making it possible for a few winners to take home a nice number of prizes. Listed here are the winners:

Bryne, Mark - Clark, Joe - Dodson, Joe - Summers, Rick - Smith, Carol - Riggelman, Jr. Tom - Sral, Megan - Merritt, Robin - Hosgood, Rachael - Tomlinson, Joe - Keagy, Gary - Harf, Chris - Edwards, Eileen, Gaeto, Patty - Baronner, Francis - Rice, Jim - Adams, Jenn - Stitt, Daniel - Harf, William - Heagen, Jean - Diedrich, Dave - Douglass, Colleen - Cassarly, Paul - Hennigan, Charles - Riggelman, Cindy - Shuma, Mike - Riggelman, Tom JR - Kung, Duane.

We are deeply indebted to the following merchants who both graciously and generously gifted us with really nice prizes. We thank them and encourage you to visit them, possibly mentioning to the management how grateful you are for their support of your parish's fundraising activities. They are:

Dairy Queen - True Value - True Value - Imler's - Olive Garden - Applebee's - Friendly's - Mama's Red Lobster - Olive Garden - Hoss's - Longhorn Steak - Kings - Sam's Club - Denny's.

Just in case you missed it, we netted \$1,455 on this project which in the end was not bad considering that we had around 50 out of 300 chances unsold. We need to become more cautious about letting the other guy do what should be *my part* in parish activity. Let's not settle for settling for!

Some of our votive candles are hard to reach, especially in the two new shrines. If you want a candle lit in one or the other of these use the standard candle envelope. Fill it out in the usual manner, but write on the back which shrine you want to have a candle lit, i.e. St John V or St. Peregrine and place the envelope in any one of the envelope "mail boxes." We collect those at least once daily and will be pleased to light you a candle as soon as a space becomes available in the shrine you specify.

You may use the same procedure with any other votive candle you can't reach. Just indicate at which shrine you wish to venerate. If all the candle holders are filled, you will be next in line. It might be helpful for us if you were to put the date and time when you made your offering in case we get a large backup. The tradition is to have all the candles lit all the time. It's not important or even significant who lit which candle since one is lighting the candle for the whole community - not for oneself.

To put the matter more formally, the contemplation of nature ought to serve as a gentle interior argument for some sort of revelation. It ought to spur us to find out whether nature's God has also communicated in a language that we can more fully understand.

It is, of course, a long argument from there to Christianity. But at the end of that argument, we should not be surprised to find that God has also a supernatural set of seasons which He uses to translate the wisdom of the natural seasons into a language of purpose for our lives. These are the liturgical seasons, which enshrine not only the whole history of our salvation, but the blueprint for our response.

## The Liturgical Seasons

The Liturgical Year begins with Advent. Advent is the period of preparation for that Revelation to which all nature points. The Christmas season follows, a time of birth and creative growth in which the Revelation will become visible. Through the period of Ordinary Time following Christmas, we become increasingly aware that this marvel of birth and growth will mature into something challenging, something for which we must train.

Lent provides this time of training, an intense effort to be somehow ready for the full impact of the growing Revelation. Then the Sacred Triduum of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday unfolds the Revelation point by difficult point, culminating in the Easter Season in which the fullness of Truth bursts upon us in a moment of intense joy because, at last, our expectation is fulfilled. Now we know not only how to live each season of life but why; and not only our purpose but also our destiny. The renewed stretch of Ordinary Time which marks the last portion of the Liturgical Year is no longer misperceived as ordinary in the sense of uninteresting, but ordinary in the sense of a regular motion of the weeks and months by which we measure our progress toward the goal and the Gift we have received.

## The Flight of Time

Yet time flies, and we miss so much. As with the natural seasons, so with the supernatural: instead of greeting them with joy and living them through, we so often awaken only just in time to regret their passing. The arrival of Winter once again reminds us of a prodigious responsibility to love all of our seasons and use them well—one of the clearest lessons nature has to give.

*(This article was written by Doctor Jeff Mirus, who when we were both working on the Internet with different Catholic Religious Education programs, gave me permission to freely use any material he had published. J.D.Z.)*

