


TALKING ABOUT ORDINARY TIME >>>

Ordinary Time is the longest season of the Church year. It covers thirty-three to thirty-four Sundays. It is divided into two parts. The first part extends through the weeks between Christmas and Ash Wednesday. The second part begins at the end of the Easter season and extends until the first Sunday of Advent, which begins the next cycle, or a new liturgical year. The liturgical color for the Sundays of Ordinary Time is green. White is the liturgical color for feasts of the Blessed Virgin.

Scripture

 Read **Ephesians 3:1–14**, which was written to Gentiles who had recently converted to Christianity. The letter encourages them in their transformation and socialization into God's purposes.

HELPING YOUR CHILD UNDERSTAND >>>

Mary

- At this age, children will be curious about the Jewish religious traditions and rituals that were a part of Mary's formation.
- Usually children at this age will understand that Mary was a woman who had a very close relationship with God.
- As a rule, children at this age are capable of comparing what is being expressed about Mary in different art forms.



CATHOLIC FAMILY CUSTOMS >>>

Feast of the Presentation of Mary

The Feast of the Presentation of Mary occurs on November 21, during the second period of Ordinary Time. It honors the decision of Mary's parents Anne and Joachim to dedicate her, as a child, at the Temple to God's service. The significance of this feast is that Mary was completely dedicated to God throughout her life, as we are called to be.

The Feast of the Presentation of Mary celebrates dedication to God's service, which in our everyday lives occurs through service to others. Your family can celebrate the Presentation of Mary with your own rite of thanksgiving and rededication. On November 21, gather around the family table—set with an image of Mary and a lighted candle, if you wish—and take time to name and appreciate the blessings that God has given your family.

FAMILY PRAYER >>>



Loving Father,

Send your Holy Spirit upon us to guide us to live in love and share the blessings of our Baptism with others. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus. Amen.



For a multimedia glossary of Catholic Faith Words, Sunday readings, seasonal and Saint resources, and chapter activities go to aliveinchrist.osv.com.