

# ORDINARY TIME

Because Ordinary Time refers to the period outside of the major seasons, and because of the connotations of the term "ordinary" in English, many people think Ordinary Time refers to the parts of the Church year that are un-IMPORTANT.

Ordinary Time is called "ordinary" because the weeks are numbered.

The Latin word *ordinalis*, which refers to numbers in a series, stems from the Latin word *ordo*, from which we get the English word *order*.

Thus, Ordinary Time is in fact the ordered life of the Church—the period in which we live our lives neither in FEASTING (Christmas & Easter) or in PREPARATION (Advent & Lent), but in WATCHFULNESS and EXPECTATION of the Second Coming of Christ.

WINTER OT begins on the day after the Baptism of the Lord and ends on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday.

Ordinary Time is the part of the year in which Christ WALKS among us and TRANSFORMS our lives.

## ORDINARY TIME - Winter

JANUARY 25 Conversion of ST. PAUL Acts 9:1-30, Acts 22:1-21, Acts 26:1-18

FEBRUARY 2 **FEAST of the PRESENTATION of the LORD:** This feast celebrates the presentation of Christ in the temple at Jerusalem on the 40th day after His birth.  
(40 days after Dec. 25)

According to Jewish law, the firstborn male child belonged to God, and the parents had to "buy him back" on the 40th day after his birth, by offering a sacrifice of "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons" in the temple (thus the "presentation" of the child). Luke 2:22-39

**PURIFICATION of the BLESSED VIRGIN:** On that same day, the mother would be ritually purified in the temple.

**CANDLEMAS:** When Christ was presented in the temple, Simeon embraced the Child and prayed the Canticle of Simeon:

*"Now thou dost dismiss thy servant, O Lord, according to thy word in peace; because my eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all peoples: a light to the revelation of the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel".*

A custom of blessing candles on this day was inspired by this Canticle and the feast day is also now referred to as Candlemas.

**GROUNDHOG DAY:** FEB. 2nd held a special significance for early Christians as representing the crossing of seasons: when people turned from the weariness of winter & rejoiced in the approaching spring. Over time, Christian folklore developed a theory that if an animal - a hedgehog or a badger, for instance - saw its shadow on the feast of the Presentation, spring would

FEBRUARY 14 Feast of ST. VALENTINE

FEBRUARY 22 Feast of The Chair of ST. PETER

TUESDAY before Ash Wednesday This last day of the 1st ordinary time is traditionally spent eating rich, fatty foods because the ritual fasting of the Lenten season begins at Midnight. It is known by several names:

**MARDI GRAS:** Mardi Gras means "Fat Tuesday" in French.

**SHROVE TUESDAY:** "Shrove" is the past tense of the word "shrive," which means to hear a confession, assign penance, and absolve from sin.