

Journey of Faith

for Ordinary Time

In the winter, the trees are asleep,
Ghosts of their former selves.
And the snow falls and softly
Blankets them with white.

And I thank you, God, for the
Quiet beauty of winter.

In the spring, the trees awaken
And shake off their white winter blanket.
New leaves appear,
And the winter, black and white,
Dissolves into the bright, cheerful noise
Of spring.

And I thank you, God, for the
New, emerging beauty of spring.

In the summer, the trees
Reach their leaves to the sky in praise.
They sway in gentle breezes
And shade the ground in shadows.

And I thank you, God, for the
Sparkling, sunlit beauty of summer.

In the autumn, the trees turn
Bright yellow and orange and scarlet.
The leaves say their good-byes in
Seas of color, then
Blanket the ground like the snow to come.

And I thank you, God, for the
Brilliant beauty of fall.

For all the seasons and all the days,
I thank you, God, in so many ways.

(Sarah Cannon, in *You Give Me the Sun*, pages 10–11)

Journey of Faith for Ordinary Time

by Mary Shrader



Genuine recycled paper with 10% post-consumer waste. 5106800

The publishing team included Barbara A. Murray and Laurie Delgatto, development editors; Lorraine Kilmartin, reviewer; Mary Koehler, permissions editor; www.FaithClipart.com, images; manufacturing coordinated by the prepress and production services departments of Saint Mary's Press.

Copyright © 2006 by Saint Mary's Press, Christian Brothers Publications, 702 Terrace Heights, Winona, MN 55987-1318, www.smp.org. All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced by any means without the written permission of the publisher.

Printed in the United States of America

Printing: 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Year: 2014 13 12 11 10 09 08 07 06

ISBN-13: 978-0-88489-891-7

ISBN-10: 0-88489-891-1

Journey of Faith series

Journey of Faith for Advent and Christmas:

Creating a Sense of Belonging Between Young People and the Church

Journey of Faith for Lent:

Creating a Sense of Belonging Between Young People and the Church

Journey of Faith for Easter and Pentecost:

Creating a Sense of Belonging Between Young People and the Church

Journey of Faith for Ordinary Time:

Creating a Sense of Belonging Between Young People and the Church

Pray It! Study It! Live It![®] resources offer a holistic approach to learning, living, and passing on the Catholic faith.

Table of Contents

Introduction	4
Chapter 1 Making Decisions as Disciples	6
Chapter 2 Tell Me a Story	9
Chapter 3 Extreme Makeover: Building the Kingdom of God	11
Chapter 4 Women in the Gospel	13
Chapter 5 Practicing Prayer	17
Chapter 6 Images of God	19
Chapter 7 Three in One: The Mystery of the Trinity	21
Chapter 8 You Gotta Have Faith: The Miracles of Jesus	24
Chapter 9 The Eucharist: A Recipe for Life	27
Chapter 10 Serving for Today, Caring for a Lifetime	32
Acknowledgments	39

Introduction

Each year the earth goes through four seasons. Different parts of the country and of the world experience the seasons in various ways. In general,

winter is a time of cooler weather;

spring, a time of new growth;

summer, a time of warmer weather;

and fall, a time of change.

Our lives are full of still more cycles, and the school year is a main cycle in your life right now. Each year has time for newness and for change. There is time for routines such as reading, studying, and participating in extracurricular activities. Not-so-ordinary events—big tests or exams and the beginning and ending of the school year—also have time.

January
December

The Church also revolves around a calendar, much like the seasons, the school year, and the twelve months from January to December. This cycle of Church seasons is called the *liturgical year*, and its purpose is to mark the celebration of the Church's liturgies. The Church calendar begins with Advent (usually near the first week-end of December) and ends just before Advent begins again (usually near Thanksgiving time).

The liturgical year is built around important historical events such as

Jesus's birth, death, and Resurrection.

The liturgies in the liturgical year help us remember God's saving power made real in those historical events.

The Church's calendar includes times designated as ordinary—not surprisingly, these are called **Ordinary Time**. The liturgies celebrated during Ordinary Time include stories and practices that are good for us to routinely pay attention to. The Church calendar also includes special, or not-so-ordinary, times such as **Lent, Easter, Advent,** and **Christmas.**

Ordinary Time is celebrated during the space of time after Christmas

and before Lent and is continued after Easter until before Advent. Roughly,

Ordinary Time is celebrated in January and part of February, and then again from

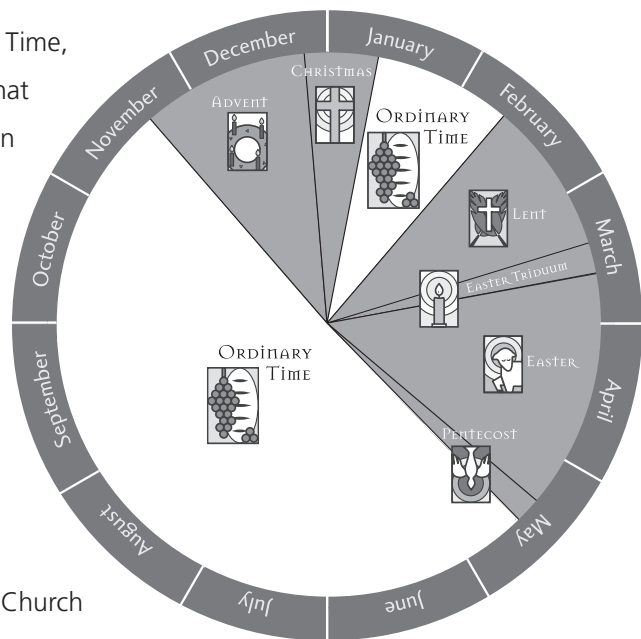
May or June through November. This book in the Journey of Faith series will be

your companion as you journey through the season of **Ordinary Time**.

The readings at Mass during Ordinary Time highlight Jesus's life between his entry into this world (his birth) and his entry into Jerusalem (the beginning of his time of Crucifixion). They cover Jesus's mission and ministry. We hear the stories of Jesus's miracles. We listen to the master storyteller himself explain the Kingdom of God through parables. We face the challenge of recognizing who Jesus is and what God asks of us, just as the first disciples did centuries ago. We struggle to surrender ourselves and be available for others through service. Jesus calls us by name to share in his mission and ministry. Even in this season of Ordinary Time, living as Christians is far from ordinary!

For the weeks during the season of Ordinary Time, this workbook has corresponding activities that include Scripture **readings**, reflection and discussion **questions**, **ideas** to think about, and **topics** to discuss with your fellow faith-sharers, friends, and family members. In addition, this workbook has open spaces for writing your own thoughts or for drawing images during the season.

This chart shows where the season of **Ordinary Time** fits in the overall Church calendar.



You can find all the readings for the Sundays of Ordinary Time in the revised edition of *The Catholic Youth Bible* from Saint Mary's Press. You can also find them in a Church lectionary or the parish missalette.

- Did Jesus encourage one option over another? which option? Why?
- Did the decision maker choose to follow or not follow Jesus?
- What decisions do you make today that are similar to those in the Scripture passage?

LIVE IT!

SPIRIT Decision-Making Process

- S = Stop
- P = Pay Attention
- I = Investigate Options
- R = Remember You Are a Follower of Christ
- I = Invite the Spirit's Wisdom and Guidance
- T = Take Action

Learning from Christ, Relying on the Spirit

Leader: Let us begin with the sign of our faith: in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Leader: Jesus knew it was hard to live the life of a disciple, so he sent us his Spirit. The Holy Spirit graces us with seven gifts that strengthen us to live a holy life.

Reader 1: Wisdom: Through wisdom, the wonders of nature, every event in history, and all the ups and downs of our life take on deeper meaning and purpose.

All: Jesus, our teacher, Holy Spirit, our guide, grant us the wisdom to choose the path to holiness.

Reader 2: Understanding: The gift of understanding is the ability to comprehend how a person must live her or his life as a follower of Jesus.

All: Jesus, our teacher, Holy Spirit, our guide, grant us understanding to recognize your presence in our daily living.

Reader 3: Right Judgment: The gift of right judgment is the ability to know the difference between right and wrong and then to choose what is good.

All: Jesus, our teacher, Holy Spirit, our guide, grant us right judgment to distinguish right from wrong and do what is right.

Reader 4: Courage: The gift of courage enables us to take risks and to overcome fear as we try to live out the Gospel of Jesus.

All: Jesus, our teacher, Holy Spirit, our guide, grant us courage in our struggle to live out the Gospel.

Reader 5: Knowledge: The gift of knowledge is the ability to comprehend the basic meaning and message of Jesus.

All: Jesus, our teacher, Holy Spirit, our guide, grant us knowledge to learn how to be who you want us to be.

Reader 6: Reverence: The gift of reverence gives us a deep sense of respect for God.

All: Jesus, our teacher, Holy Spirit, our guide, grant us reverence to invite you into our lives and into our decisions.

Reader 7: Wonder and Awe: The gift of wonder and awe makes us aware of God's total majesty, unlimited power, and desire for justice.

All: Jesus, our teacher, Holy Spirit, our guide, grant us wonder and awe to revel in your unconditional and unlimited love.

Leader: May we continue to learn from Jesus, trust in the Holy Spirit, and praise God in all we do so that people will know we are Christians.

All: Amen.

(The teaching lines on the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit read by the seven participants are taken from Brian Singer-Towns, *The Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth*, pages 374–375.)

Acknowledgments

The scriptural quotations contained herein are from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, Catholic Edition. Copyright © 1993 and 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. All rights reserved.

The prayer by Sarah Cannon on page 1 is from *You Give Me the Sun: Biblical Prayers by Teenagers*, edited by Carl Koch (Winona, MN: Saint Mary's Press, 2000), pages 10–11. Copyright © 2000 by Saint Mary's Press. All rights reserved.

The liturgical diagram on page 5 and the teaching lines on the “Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit” read by the seven participants are from *The Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth*, by Brian Singer-Towns et al. (Winona, MN: Saint Mary's Press, 2004), pages 139 and 374–375. The prayer on page 38 is adapted from *The Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth*. Copyright © 2004 by Saint Mary's Press. All rights reserved.

The Nicene Creed on page 22 is from *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers*, by the Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy (Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops [USCCB], 1989), pages 374–375. Copyright © 1989 by the USCCB.

The “Needs, Wants, and Haves” chart on pages 33–34 is adapted from *Morality of Power: A Notebook on Christian Education for Social Change*, by Charles R. McCollough (New York: United Church Press, 1977), pages 53–54. Copyright © 1977 by United Church Press. Used with permission.

During this book's preparation, all citations, facts, figures, names, addresses, telephone numbers, Internet URLs, and other pieces of information cited within were verified for accuracy. The authors and Saint Mary's Press staff have made every attempt to reference current and valid sources, but we cannot guarantee the content of any source, and we are not responsible for any changes that may have occurred since our verification. If you find an error in, or have a question or concern about, any of the information or sources listed within, please contact Saint Mary's Press.