



PRAY, PONDER, PREACH AND PRACTICE THE WORD OF GOD

Facilitated by Racine Dominican Preaching Committee *January 2023*

Ordinary Time...Again??

By S. Carla Mae Streeter

As the saying goes, “What goes around comes around.” But make no mistake, when Ordinary Time appears at this time of the liturgical year there is a new twist. The Church is telling us something. Keep in mind that an Ordinary Time period follows the two central mysteries of our faith: the Incarnation and the Paschal Mystery. Ordinary Time is ‘absorption’ time...time to soak the soul.

Our New Year begins with the celebration of Mary, Mother of God. Now why would Mary be placed before us to begin this time? Ah...because Mary is the one who ponders in her heart... and that is what we are invited to do. She is the Mother of believers, and that’s us.

The Word has bonded with our DNA...our carbon and calcium, our double helix. He asked Mary for a body so he could be part of our day-to-day struggle. Only by bonding with matter could he suffer from the inside, not just as a compassionate observer. The Epiphany reveals that this is universal...for everyone. On our side, we bond with him in our baptism, so we ponder that he meets us there. The month ends with the Beatitudes. They show us what we will look like when all is said and done; when the struggle is over.

*Little Tyke,
you have us wrapped around your little finger.
You knew how to get our attention.
Who can resist a baby?
Love bent so low to fit into a tiny body...
God with skin on.*

Thank you to S. Rose Marie Dischler for this month’s reflections.

Sunday, January 1, 2023 | The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Numbers 6:22-27, Galatians 4:4-7 and Luke 2:16-21

Hail Mary, full of grace! These three short readings are full of grace. Luke tells us that the graced shepherds made haste to visit Mary, Joseph and the infant lying in the manger and then left full of grace. Paul says that God sent the Spirit of God into our hearts and we are graced as sons and daughters of God. Receiving the blessing of Aaron, may God’s face shine on us today and grace us with peace!

Sunday, January 8, 2023 | The Epiphany of God

Isaiah 60:1-6, Matthew 2: 1-12

What are you following? Can you picture Christ shining over you and what you are following? Isaiah says that even if there are thick clouds and darkness, the Divine glory shines on us. Eventually, we will see more clearly what we are following and our hearts will overflow. As in the Gospel, the wise ones stayed focused and arrived!

Sunday, January 15, 2023 | Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

John 1:29-34

John the Baptist saw Jesus approaching and said, Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. He is the reason I have been baptizing with water to prepare you. I saw the Spirit come down and remain with him. He will baptize with the Holy Spirit. I testify that he is the Son of God. May we continue to believe and trust that Jesus and the Holy Spirit are with us and that more will believe. We can prepare the way as John did.

Sunday, January 22, 2023 | Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Matthew 4:12-23, Isaiah 8:23-9:3, I Corinthians 1: 10-13, 17

Jesus is beginning his public ministry to people outside of Judea. He called on some ordinary fisherman in the area of Galilee for help. He proclaimed the gospel of the kingdom and cured every disease and illness among the people. He left what was familiar and went where there was a need. The Kingdom is near! And, as Paul said to the Corinthians, we preach the Gospel that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its meaning.

Sunday, January 29, 2023 | Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Zephaniah, 2:3, 3:12-13, 1 Corinthians, 1:26-31, Matthew, 5:1-12

Matthew gives us the beautiful rendition of the beatitudes and Zephaniah provides a good introduction. It is Paul, however who gives a simple summary. He asks the Corinthians and us to consider our calling. We may not be wise by human standards, likewise it is the weak, lonely and despised of the world that may be the ones worthy before God. God is our boast!

