

Homily Summary – Second Sunday of Ordinary Time (Year A)

Overview: On this first “Green Sunday” of Ordinary Time, the Church invites us to focus on growth in the everyday life of faith. Jesus is the Light to the nations and the Lamb of God, present among us especially in the Eucharist. Ordinary Time is not “ordinary” in the sense of boring, but foundational - where Christ steadily shapes our lives week after week in an *ordinal* or sequentially patterned reading of the Bible. One concrete practice explored is genuflection, a simple yet profound act of worship that helps orient our hearts toward Jesus truly present in the Blessed Sacrament.

Main Points

1. Ordinary Time Is a Season of Growth

- Green vestments symbolize life, growth, and ongoing discipleship.
- Ordinary Time focuses on the continuous teaching and mission of Jesus through semi-continuous readings of Scripture.
- The Second Sunday of Ordinary Time still echoes the Epiphany theme: Christ revealed as Savior for all nations.

2. Jesus Is the Light and the Lamb

- Isaiah proclaims the Servant as “a light to the nations” (Isaiah 49:6).
- John the Baptist identifies Jesus as “the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29).
- These titles converge in the Eucharist, where Christ offers Himself for our salvation.
- At Mass, the Church echoes this revelation through the *Agnus Dei* and the invitation before Communion: “Behold the Lamb of God.”

3. Genuflection: A Small Act with Great Meaning

- Genuflection is an act of adoration acknowledging Christ’s real presence in the Eucharist.
- By bending the right knee to the ground in the direction of the Tabernacle containing the Eucharist, we proclaim with our bodies what we believe in our hearts: Jesus is Lord and He is truly present.
- This simple, intentional gesture helps us remain focused on Christ and cultivate reverence.

4. We Are Called to Holiness

- St. Paul reminds us that we are “sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints” (1 Corinthians 1:2).
- Holiness means uniting ourselves to God by doing His will.
- The psalm response expresses the heart of discipleship: “Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will” (Psalm 40:7–8).

5. Mary as Our Model

- Mary’s words at Cana - “Do whatever he tells you” (John 2:5) - sum up the Christian life.
- She shows us how trusting obedience opens the door to grace.
- When we fail, the Sacrament of Reconciliation restores us and renews our call to holiness.

6. Looking to the Sunday of the Word of God

- Next Sunday is the Sunday of the Word of God, proclaimed by Pope Francis, inviting renewed love for Sacred Scripture.
- Ordinary Time encourages growth through faithful attention to small, faithful practices.

Key Bible Verses (NRSVCE)

- *“I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”* - Isaiah 49:6
- *“Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”* - John 1:29
- *“To the church of God that is in Corinth... called to be saints.”* - 1 Corinthians 1:2
- *“Here I am... I delight to do your will, O my God.”* - Psalm 40:7–8
- *“Do whatever he tells you.”* - John 2:5

Reflection Questions

1. How do I approach Ordinary Time - as a season of routine, or as an opportunity for steady spiritual growth?
2. What do my gestures at Mass (especially genuflection) say about what I believe regarding the Eucharist?

3. In what areas of my life is God inviting me to say more sincerely, "Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will"?
 4. How can Mary's trustful obedience inspire my daily decisions this week?
 5. As the Sunday of the Word of God approaches, how can I make Scripture more central in my life?
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Conclusion: Ordinary Time teaches us that holiness grows through faithful attention to ordinary things. By recognizing Jesus as the Lamb of God, honoring His presence in the Eucharist, and imitating Mary's trust, we are invited to "go forth and grow" in Christ's light.

Rhyme summary: Green Sunday dawns with vestments bright and new. Ordinary Time calls: "Go and grow!" in Christ's view. Isaiah's light to nations shines so wide, as Christ the Lamb takes sin away – He is our hope and our guide. St. John proclaims, "Behold the Lamb of God!" and so we sing – for in the Eucharist is our Savior, our everything. We genuflect in love, with right knee to the floor, adoring Jesus present forevermore.

Some Scriptural reasons to come to Mass each weekend

Exodus 20:8 - "Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy."

Acts 2:42 - "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."

Hebrews 10:24-25 - "And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Luke 22:19 - "Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'"

John 6:53-54 - "So Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day.'"

Matthew 18:20 - "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Psalms 122:1 - "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'"

Colossians 3:16 - "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God."

Additional resources to learn more about God and the Catholic faith

- Check out the resource list available on www.frmerkley.com
- Catholic Answers: <https://www.catholic.com/>
- Word on Fire: <https://www.wordonfire.org/>
- Formed: <https://formed.org/>
- The Coming Home Network: <https://chnetwork.org/>
- Catholic Exchange: <https://catholicexchange.com/>
- Dynamic Catholic: <https://dynamiccatholic.com/>
- The Augustine Institute: <https://augustineinstitute.org/>
- Ascension Press: <https://ascensionpress.com/>
- EWTN: <https://www.ewtn.com/>
- The Catholic Company: <https://www.catholiccompany.com/>
- Busted Halo: <https://bustedhalo.com/>
- CatholicCulture.org: <https://www.catholicculture.org/>
- The Thomistic Institute: <https://thomisticinstitute.org/>
- Ignatius Press: <https://www.ignatius.com/>
- Catholic Education Resource Center (CERC): <https://www.catholiceducation.org/>