

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

Short Overview: On this Sunday of the Word of God, we are reminded that *Ordinary Time* is anything but ordinary. God’s love for us is constant, faithful, and extraordinary - even in the everyday moments of life. The Church invites us to renew our love for Sacred Scripture, to let God’s Word shape our thoughts, our speech, and our hearts, and to return confidently to God’s mercy when we fall short.

Main Points

- 1. Ordinary Time: God’s Extraordinary Love in Ordinary Life**
Ordinary Time reminds us that God works powerfully in the daily rhythms of life. His love is steady, faithful, and always present, forming us gradually through ordinary faithfulness.
 - 2. Sunday of the Word of God – “Bible Sunday”**
God speaks to us today through Sacred Scripture. We are encouraged to own a Bible, read it prayerfully, and choose a faithful translation that helps us grow closer to God. Scripture is not just information—it is God’s living Word addressed personally to us.
 - 3. The Sign of the Cross on Forehead, Lips, and Heart**
Before the Gospel, we pray that God’s Word may be:
 - **on our minds** (forehead),
 - **on our lips** (words and witness),
 - **in our hearts** (guiding our choices and actions).
 - 4. Mary’s Example: Pondering the Word**
Mary shows us how to receive God’s Word with trust and reflection, holding it in her heart and allowing it to shape her life.
 - 5. Reconciliation: Mercy When We Fail to Live the Word**
When we fall short of living God’s Word, the Sacrament of Reconciliation restores us. God not only forgives us but strengthens us to live more faithfully going forward.
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Key Bible Verses:

- **Nehemiah 8:8** – “They read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.”
 - **Luke 8:15** – “But as for that in the good soil, these are the ones who, when they hear the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart.”
 - **Luke 2:19** – “But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.”
 - **Psalms 119:105** – “Your word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path.”
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Catechism of the Catholic Church

- **CCC 101** – Sacred Scripture is the written Word of God, entrusted to the Church.
 - **CCC 103** – The Church venerates Sacred Scripture just as she venerates the Body of the Lord.
 - **CCC 104** – Scripture strengthens faith, nourishes the soul, and is a source of spiritual life.
 - **CCC 1424–1426** – Reconciliation restores us when we have turned away from God’s Word and helps us begin again.
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Reflection Questions

1. Do I have a Bible, and how often do I read it prayerfully?
2. Is God’s Word shaping my thoughts, my speech, and my choices?
3. Like Mary, do I take time to ponder what God is saying to me?
4. When I fall short, do I trust in God’s mercy through Reconciliation?
5. What is one concrete way I can let God’s Word guide my life this week?

Rhyme summary:

God's love is ordinary, His word guides our lives.
When we say "yes" to Him that's when we really start to thrive.
The Bible is the Word of God, it leads us in our way.
We highlight this with crosses before the Gospel every day.
Mary reflected on God's Word deep in her heart.
If we haven't read the Bible, now's a real good time to start.
In it we will come to know Jesus, who is our friend,
and by following it we'll come to the life has no end.

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/>