



## **Month:** September: Ordinary Time-Color Green

Ordinary Time begins after Christmas (after the Baptism of the Lord), continues until Ash Wednesday when it stops for Lent and Easter, then picks up again after Pentecost Sunday and runs through the summer and autumn until the beginning of Advent. It is a time of growth and change. We may be unaware of the change and growth going on around us, but during Ordinary Time each Sunday is numbered as we count up the weeks. Green is the color for Ordinary Time which reminds us that green is the color of hope and life.

## **Theme:** Prayer

Prayer is the power of the heart. There are four fundamental types of prayer that has been constant throughout the ages that help us deepen our relationship with God. The first type of prayer is *praise* that sings of God's glory. We praise God for being God! Prayers of *Thanksgiving* celebrate the wonders God has given us. *Petition* prayers acknowledge our dependence on God, and *Intercession* prayers help us pray on behalf of others. When praying with children, pray slowly, and make sure they understand the words. Here are a few ideas for praying at home with your children; pray with artwork, music, and mime, or as a family, go to the church and pray silently in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, but however you pray, make prayer a focus in your family life.

## **Sacrament:** Baptism

Through birth we become creatures of God. In baptism, we are made sons and daughters of God. In the sacrament of Baptism God invites personal friendship, and the human responds with a freely given "yes." As parents, you speak for your newborn and the godparents give their support to both you and the child. As children grow, they begin to take on the responsibility for the Baptismal promises you made for them. At their Baptism, you made promises to guide your child in the practice of the faith; to teach your child how to live the commandments of love for God and neighbor, and to develop strength of spirit. Baptism challenges us all to keep the Light of Christ burning brightly.

## **Family Activity:** Set up a "Prayer Center" in your home.

Green is the color for Ordinary Time. Use a small coffee table for your prayer center and cover it with a green cloth. Place a Bible, crucifix, religious statue, and a candle on the table, encourage your child to go the Prayer Center for quiet meditation, and prayer at the beginning or end of the day. Hold family prayer at the Prayer Center where everyone gathers to pray and read the Scriptures each day. Pray the Rosary as a family here, and let each family member take a turn at leading one of the decades.

## **Saint Information:** Saint of the Month: St. Vincent de Paul. Feast Day September 29.