

# The Herald Angel!



January 18, 2010

## Ordinary Time Not so ordinary!



### What is Ordinary Time?

The rhythm of the liturgical seasons reflects the rhythm of life — with its celebrations of anniversaries and its seasons of quiet growth and maturing.

Ordinary Time, meaning ordered or numbered time, is celebrated in two segments: from the Monday following the Baptism of Our Lord up to Ash Wednesday; and from Pentecost Monday to the First Sunday of Advent. This makes it the largest season of the Liturgical Year.

In vestments usually green, the color of hope and growth, the Church counts the thirty-three or thirty-four Sundays of Ordinary Time, inviting her children to meditate upon the whole mystery of Christ — his life, miracles and teachings — in the light of his Resurrection.

If the faithful are to mature in the spiritual life and increase in faith, they must descend the great mountain peaks of Easter and Christmas in order to "pasture" in the vast verdant meadows of *tempus per annum*, or Ordinary Time.

Sunday by Sunday, the Pilgrim Church marks her journey through the *tempus per annum* as she processes through time toward eternity.

Taken from: [http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/overviews/seasons/ordinary\\_time/ordinary1.cfm](http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/overviews/seasons/ordinary_time/ordinary1.cfm)

### What to notice in Ordinary Time

#### *The color Green.*

This symbolizes life. During Ordinary time we will see the public life of Jesus and come to know the everlasting life He brings. The priest's and deacon's vestments may be green, the altar may have green cloths, banners hung may be green.

#### *Numbered Weeks.*

Each Sunday is given a number as we move through the year.

#### *Cycle C Readings*

The Gospel Readings for this year come from Cycle C which focuses on the Evangelist Luke's gospel readings.

### Christmas Angels Year-Round!

How do we keep the Christmas spirit going during the "ordinary" days of the year? During the Christmas season, we all experienced the joy of giving. However, Jesus didn't give of himself only during the holidays! Everyday is a day we can give in some way, through our talents, our time and our treasure. Here are a few things coming up in the Faith Formation Office and the Pastoral Council of which you can be involved. Details of each are on the back.

1. College Care Packages
2. Pasta Dinner Team
3. Youth Lock-In for the Homeless
4. Sand Dollars for Haiti
5. Men's & Women's Retreat Kitchen Crew
6. Welcome Team
7. Parish News Team

**"Tempus per annum"** literally means **"time throughout the year"** in Latin. It refers to ordinal numbers used to number the weeks of the liturgical year. The first week of Ordinary Time begins on the Monday after the Baptism of the Lord, hence the Sunday which follows begins the second week of Ordinary time and is referred to then as the Second Sunday of Ordinary Time. There are 33-34 weeks of Ordinary time placed between the high seasons of Christmas and Easter.

**Ordinary Time moves us through the Paschal Mystery of Christ.**

## COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES

Our usual sending of care packages to the college students in the fall didn't quite happen. But, this might be a better time to get things together for our students. Winter is long, especially when away from the comforts of home. The St. Helena's family is part of that home. So, I would like to send the college students their care-packages by mid February. Our collection for the fall packages was very slim, so I am hoping this will be a better time to collect items for the care packages. Please send in one of the following items to place in the CarePackage box located at the church entrances or send the item in with your student as he or she attend religious education classes. The packages are made up with single serving/snack size /individually wrapped items. Please send one of the following items:

**Hot cocoa (box of individual servings)**

**Microwave popcorn**

**fruit snacks**

**gum**

**candy**

**Cup-of-soups**

**Ramen noodles**

**mac&cheese**

**granola bars**

**instant oatmeal (packets)**

**energy drink mixes (propel comes in individual "to go" sizes to mix into water bottles).**

**chapsticks (always requested)**

**cookies in individual servings**

**chips/crackers (snack sized)**

**conversation hearts (Valentine's Day!)**

**anything else you can think of!**

Please start to bring these ASAP so we can get the boxes packed up and sent by Valentine's Day.

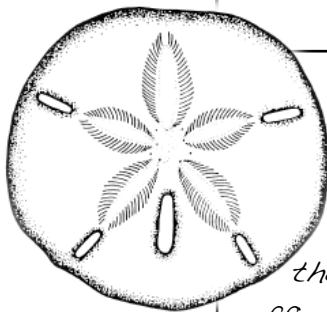
## Pasta Dinner & Youth Lock-In

Our annual Pasta Dinner is scheduled for Saturday, February 27. We are hoping to include entertainment..."Catholic Comedy" with the stand up comedy acts of some of our talented and very funny parishioners. Stay tuned for more information posted in the bulletin. Come eat and enjoy a good laugh that night provided by the Pastoral Council.

We also need adult volunteers (**angels**) to help that evening in the kitchen and dining hall to supervise. If you can help, please call the rectory, 363-3882 or Andrea Slaven at 361-1566.

The evening is free, however our high school youth group will be working the pasta dinner as part of their "Lock-In" to raise money for charity. The students are hoping to receive "tips" or "donations" for their cause. The students will remain the entire night "locked in" the church. A mid-night prayer service is planned, as well as an experiment to see what it is like to sleep in a box outside (we only do this for a short time!)

So, mark the date on your calendar, eat, laugh and help our students!



### *"Sand Dollars" for Haiti*

*Students can bring loose change to drop in the sand bucket in the religious education office. Every dollar in change collected will be sent to our diocese for the relief effort in Haiti. This area will be in need for a long time, so our collection will go through the end of the school year. Students are also encouraged to bring in articles, prayers, progress being made in Haiti, etc to place around our Haiti display. Let's be **angels** for those in desperate need.*

## Annual Men's & Women's Breakfast Retreat

If you've never come before, come this time! Treat yourself to our annual men's & women's retreat. It is not meant for couples, but for all men and women! It is a time to get away from the usual activities, and focus on "you" and your faith. Details of our speaker will be in the bulletin. This is a wonderful way to meet others in our parish, enjoy breakfast, and have some "God" time. The Breakfast is "potluck" style. Everyone is to bring a brunch type dish to pass.

Volunteers (**angels**) are needed for the kitchen to help set up the kitchen, get coffee going, tables set, etc. Please call the rectory at 363-3882.

## Welcome Angels

As our parish continues to reach out and evangelize to others and build up various ministry teams within our parish, we are looking for volunteers (**angels**) who would like to be part of a welcoming team for new families. We are planning a welcome brunch in April and need some help organizing and working on this. If you would like to be an "angel" in this way, please call the rectory at 363-3882 or talk to Andrea Slaven at 361-1566.

## Parish News Letter

We are still trying to put together a parish newsletter, but first we need a team of **angels** who like to write! Our parish newsletter is just another way of reaching out to let everyone know the good things we do here at St. Helena's. We are hoping to have a newsletter 3 or 4 times a year. If you have a talent for gathering info, writing, or editing please call the rectory, 363-3882 or Tricia Pennise at 363-8248.

**Don't forget to visit [www.st-helenas.org](http://www.st-helenas.org) (parish site) and [www.st-helenas-re.org](http://www.st-helenas-re.org) (religious education site)**