

Father Jim's Weekly Bulletin Article for January 14, 2018

Ordinary Time: We have re-entered Ordinary Time. Today is the second Sunday in Ordinary Time. There is no first Sunday. The first week began when we concluded the Christmas Season with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Ordinary Time actually has two periods, the first between Christmas and Lent, and the second between Easter and Advent. Both begin with the conclusion of a great feast. Both end with the beginning of preparation for another great feast. This is often how our lives work. There are many milestones along the way, events that we will remember and recount. We also remember, however, the ordinary times, perhaps in a much more general way but with a sense for what it means to live together as friends and family. There may not be any great events on which to focus but there is a sense in which our ordinary times define who we truly are.

Readings for next week: Jonah 3:1-5,10; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

Reflection: Mark is a Gospel filled with urgency and abandonment. Jesus wastes no time in the wake of John's arrest. The good news must continue, and Jesus must proclaim it. He calls Simon and Andrew, who immediately abandon their nets. "On the spot" he summons Zebedee's sons, who abandon their father to follow him. As quick as the action may be, it is not without precedent. Jonah must abandon his pride to preach God's word. The people of Ninevah immediately abandon their evil ways and repent. Because conversion and repentance can happen at any time, it seldom seems urgent. The salvation of the one who repents tomorrow is no different from that of the one who repents today. Mark's Gospel rejects that claim. The work of fulfillment and salvation rests in our hands. The time for repentance is now.

1. Describe a change in your life which followed another's call.
2. Recall an experience of reconciliation with another person. What is needed for reconciliation to happen?

Prayer: Blessed be God who calls us into action, who acts through us and with us, who reveals himself to us, and always keeps his promises. Blessed be God's Holy People who rejoice in Him forever!