

July 1, 2018

From Fr. Jim . . .

Ordinary Time: Today is the Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time. The Liturgical season of Ordinary time is any time that is not Advent/Christmas or Lent/Easter, holy day of obligation or a major feast. It has been said already, in this column, that Ordinary Time is anything but ordinary. The gospels continue to proclaim the saving ministry of Jesus Christ, focusing on his miracles and healings and building the kingdom of God. Each Sunday is a "little Easter" as we give thanks for Christ's victory over sin and death and as we rejoice in his resurrection.



If we use the word "ordinary" in an ordinary way at all during this liturgical season, it refers to ordinary human existence that meets up with and is converted by the extraordinary life of the Divine. The bottom line is always the same: there is nothing really that ordinary about this time of the liturgical year and nothing really that ordinary about us either. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen. Alleluia!

Fourth of July: Wednesday is the Fourth of July. As we celebrate our country's independence, let us be mindful of all those who have fought for our rights and given their lives in service to their country and who are still fighting and sacrificing their own lives for our independence and freedom. Let us pray for peace in our hearts, homes and throughout the world. Isn't peace one of the greatest freedoms for the body, mind and spirit?

Let us pray for nations, lands and peoples who are not as free as we are free, especially places where governments are corrupt, oppressive, immoral and unjust. Let us pray for refugees and immigrants that they can celebrate with us the freedoms that brought them to our country. Let us pray that we will be good stewards of our country's freedoms and never take them for granted. Let us pray for politicians and government leaders who are responsible for legislation that promotes equal rights for all people. We join with our Bishops and Catholics and Christians throughout our land in praying for continued religious freedom and for laws that would not punish or penalize anyone from following religious beliefs.

Let us pray for a deeper trust in God, who is the author of all life and who has set us free from the bondage of sin and death. Let us pray that we can live truly in the freedom that all children of God have been given. Let us pray to always know the truth of God's love because this Truth will set us free now and forever.

Prayer for Independence Day, July 4 (from Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers)

God, source of all freedom, this day is bright with the memory of those who declared that life and liberty are your gift to every human being. Help us to continue a good work begun long ago. Make our vision clear and our will strong: that only in human solidarity will we find liberty and justice only in the honor that belongs to every life on earth. Turn our hearts to the family of nations to understand the ways of others, to offer friendship, and to find safety only in the common good of all. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen. Happy Fourth of July, everyone!

St. Leo Culture Fest is Saturday, July 14, 2017, 1 – 9:30pm. The Culture Fest is in our parking lot and the Mass will be at 6pm in the Church. This is an annual event sponsored by our Guatemalan parishioners to praise God and to celebrate our cultural diversity. Food booths featuring food from different cultures are available for your dining pleasure along with prayer, music, song and dancing. All are welcome. Please join us.