

# Introduction to Ordinary Time during Summer



During the longest liturgical season of the year, we discover what it means to live as Easter people, as Church, as disciples of Jesus Christ. We begin with the solemnities of the Most Holy Trinity and the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, recalling who God is and how we encounter him most intimately in the Eucharist. The solemnity of the Nativity of John the Baptist is on a Sunday this year, and the readings for the solemnity replace those regularly assigned to this Sunday.

## **Liturgical Environment**

The liturgical color of Ordinary Time is green, the color of new life. We celebrate two solemnities, and the vestments of the solemnities are white. When discussing these days, you may want to put a white runner over the green cloth on your prayer table and suggest that the children pay close attention to what the priest and deacon wear. Add freshly cut flowers or potted plants, which will emphasize our growth in faith and love.

## **Celebrating Ordinary Time during Summer with Children**

Although some parish ministers might be taking a much needed break, the children can still grow spiritually by participating in ministries and summer catechetical programs. If your group continues to meet over the summer, use the activities provided in this book to convey spiritual values, or encourage families to do these activities at home. As parents make travel plans to visit friends and relatives, encourage them to look up parishes where they may attend Mass. If you are able, provide families with recommendations of books, discussion questions, or online resources to promote faith-sharing time. Even praying the Rosary together can make prayer time more meaningful to families. Teaching the mysteries, which reflect on the person and divinity of Jesus Christ, can help keep their faith life growing.