



Throughout the year, the story of salvation is told, and the Mystery of Christ is revealed, through the daily Scripture readings assigned following what is known as the Catholic Church's Liturgical Calendar.

The Liturgical Calendar comprises five seasons: Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, and Ordinary Time. Ordinary Time begins after the Feast of Jesus' Baptism and the readings are focused on the teaching and healing ministry of Christ. Don't be fooled by the name: there is nothing ordinary about Ordinary Time! This is the season in the life of the Church when we hear Jesus' incredible message about the coming of God's Kingdom, His parables and teaching, and the accounts of His miracles: healing the sick, driving out demons, and raising the dead. There's nothing ordinary about that!

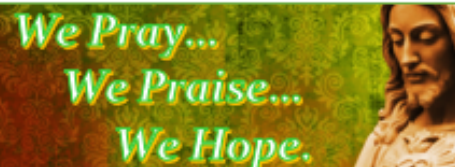
In our everyday speech, "ordinary" is generally used to refer to something as common, plain, or unimpressive. The meaning of "ordinary" as used for this season in the Liturgical Calendar, however, comes from the ordinal numbers by which the weeks are counted: sequentially numbered weeks beginning with the 1st week of Ordinary Time in January and concluding with the 33rd or 34th week of Ordinary Time in November.

Each liturgical season has particular colors associated with it: purple for Advent and Lent, white and gold for Christmas and Easter, and red for Holy Week. The color associated with Ordinary Time is green, a color that is often a symbol of new life and growth, and it represents just that here: the growth and expansion of the Church following the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus as we seek to live the Gospel.

The US Conference of Catholic Bishops explains, "This is the time of conversion. This is living the life of Christ. Ordinary Time is a time for growth and maturation, a time in which the mystery of Christ is called to penetrate ever more deeply into history until all things are finally caught up in Christ."* In "The Ultimate Guide to Ordinary Time," the author responds to this description: "One of the realities of everyday life is that it is easy to get caught up in things: Politics. Social Media. Schedules. Work. Money. Worry. The list could go on. But what would life look like if you were **caught up in Christ?**"** Let's find out as we grow together through Ordinary Time – this extraordinary season in the life of the Church!



*<https://www.usccb.org/prayer-worship/liturgical-year/ordinary-time>
**<https://www.thecatholicregister.com/the-ultimate-guide-to-ordinary-time> 58139



Welcome Back, Families & Friends!!

What a joy it is to once again encounter family and friends passing by in the hallways as you come to visit your loved ones! While some restrictions remain in place, we give thanks to God that we are once again able to welcome visitors into our home, and we continue to place our trust in God to bring us through whatever challenges we may face as we continue moving forward through these uncertain times.

If you happen to be visiting around noon, you will hear our daily prayer over the intercom offered for all residents and staff, families and loved ones, and for everyone affected by the pandemic: the "Our Father" and a prayer for restoring health during which we ask our namesake, Blessed George Matulaitis, to join us in our prayer. On March 25th of last year, Pope Francis invited all Christians around the world to join in praying the "Our Father" together, and we have continued to do so every day since then, adding the prayer for restoring health on Bl. George's feast day, January 27th. *We have been praying for you every day throughout the past year – and will continue to do so!* Whenever you are here when the prayer is led over the intercom, you are most welcome to pause for a moment and join us. You are also welcome to take a Bl. George prayer card so you can continue to join us wherever you may be, available at Center Court and Reception.

God bless and keep you always!

Daily: Holy Mass, 10:30am in the Chapel. Memorial Masses are offered for all residents who have died here, dates are posted at the reception counter, Family Council bulletin board, and at Center Court.

Weekly: Hymns & Prayers program is offered at 2:30pm on Tuesdays in the Chapel and on Thursdays in the D-Lounge.

- 9.3.21 First Friday**
Adoration & Benediction
Chapel 3:30pm
- 9.1.21 Pilgrimage to Lourdes**
Mary Garden 1:30pm
*Outdoor event –
In case of inclement
weather, please call ahead*
- 9.8.21 Feast of Our Lady of Šiluva
& Šilinės, the Nativity of
the Blessed Virgin Mary**
Holy Mass 10:30am
- 9.13.21 13th of the Month Rosary Club**
Chapel/D-Lounge 1:30pm
- 10.1.21 First Friday**
Adoration & Benediction
with praying of the Holy Rosary
Chapel 3:30pm
*Every Friday in October,
the month dedicated to the
Holy Rosary*
- 10.7.21 Feast of Our Lady of the
Most Holy Rosary**
Rosary Group
Chapel 1:30pm
- 10.13.21 13th of the Month Rosary Club**
Chapel 1:30pm



Spiritual Ministry at Matulaitis: A Reflection

"Good Conquerors!"

By Joe Delaney,
St. James Parish

First, some background: I am a candidate for the Diaconate in the Diocese of Norwich, with the goal of ordination in the Summer of 2023. In April, our class received emails informing us of our assignments to engage in ministry at various locations in eastern Connecticut. Bishop Cote's purpose for these assignments is for us gain practical experience that will help us become better deacons. It was the first time I heard of Matulaitis Nursing Home, and I was at first rather nervous about going to a place I had never been. My first day at Matulaitis was during the first week of May, and concluded with my final visit on Tuesday, July 27, 2021. Reflecting on these past three months, I would like to share with you a few of the many things that stand out to me.

The *compassion* and *dedication* of the staff was truly something to behold. My weekly visits to Matulaitis gave me the opportunity to speak with a number of employees and the chance to watch them interact with residents. It was very clear to me that at all levels of staff and administration, a gentle, caring and respectful approach is of great importance and is something that all strive for. These are virtues and qualities that our Lord wants from us and are seen in abundance at Matulaitis.

My own responsibilities centered on a Bible Study group and individual room visits, experiences that brought me into close contact with residents. This was a gift for me. As I think of the people I got to know, words like *faith*, *courage*, *integrity* and *goodness* immediately come to mind. Each person in her/his own way showed me the finest examples of true humanity, and I thank them for that.



because of it. There is no doubt that, should God see fit that I become a deacon, I will be a better one after this experience. A deacon must always remember that each of us is precious in God's eyes. Thanks to all of you for this powerful reminder.

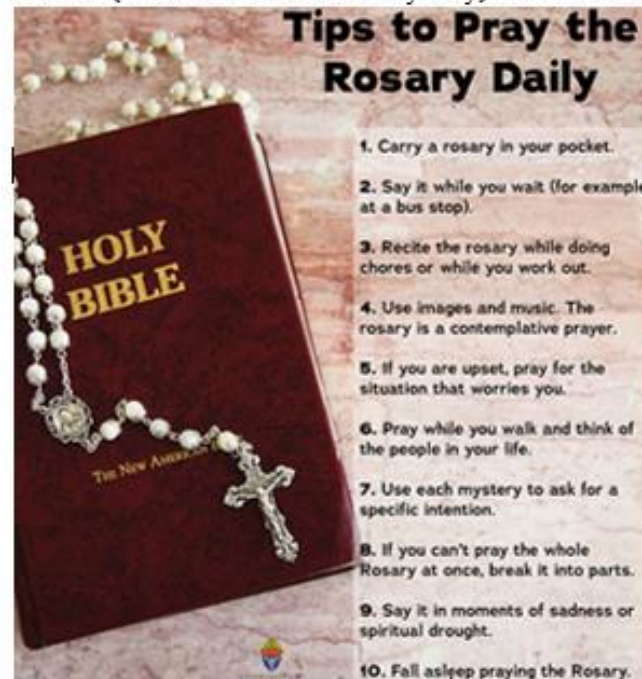
At the beginning of this experience, I naturally thought about and wondered what I could bring, what I could give to the Matulaitis community. It's obvious now that I am taking away much more than I gave, and I am a better person

Contemplating Christ: the Holy Rosary



Along with the seasons of the Liturgical Calendar, there are also various holy days and months dedicated to celebrating events within those seasons and significant moments and people in the history of the Church. The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary; to honor this, we have Adoration & Benediction accompanied by praying the Rosary every Friday in Oct. here at Matulaitis Home.

The Rosary is an ancient prayer that calls us to meditate on the life, death, resurrection and glory of Christ. The Rosary honors and contemplates Mary too, as there is no one who followed more closely in Jesus' footsteps than she. The Rosary comprises five cycles of prayer, each referred to as a decade. The repetition creates a rhythm and facilitates meditation on what are referred to as the Mysteries of the Rosary: some of the most profound moments in the lives of Jesus and Mary. The twenty mysteries are divided into four groups: the Joyful, the Luminous, the Sorrowful, and the Glorious Mysteries. With each "Hail Mary" we ask our Blessed Mother to pray for us, and, through our contemplation of the mysteries, she continually points us back to her Son, just as she did at the wedding at Cana (the second Luminous Mystery): "Do whatever he tells you" (John 2:5).



Tips to Pray the Rosary Daily

1. Carry a rosary in your pocket.
2. Say it while you wait (for example at a bus stop).
3. Recite the rosary while doing chores or while you work out.
4. Use images and music. The rosary is a contemplative prayer.
5. If you are upset, pray for the situation that worries you.
6. Pray while you walk and think of the people in your life.
7. Use each mystery to ask for a specific intention.
8. If you can't pray the whole Rosary at once, break it into parts.
9. Say it in moments of sadness or spiritual drought.
10. Fall asleep praying the Rosary.

Pope Benedict XVI explains, "The Rosary, when it is prayed in an authentic way, not mechanical and superficial but profoundly, it brings, in fact, peace and reconciliation. It contains within itself the healing power of the Most Holy Name of Jesus, invoked with faith and love at the center of each 'Hail Mary.'"^{**}

This October, as you seek to deepen your prayer life and grow in love for Jesus and His Church, consider giving praying the Rosary daily a try, contemplating Christ through the eyes of Mary.

https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/overviews/months/10_1.cfm

Check out our website:
www.matulaitisnh.org



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