

From Fr. Don:

Ordinary is anything but an ordinary word and within the church it has less than ordinary meanings.

The Senior or Diocesan Bishop of a Diocese is the "Bishop Ordinary" meaning that he or she has the right to confer "orders" or to ordain people to be Deacons or Priests.

The chief assistant to the bishop is often called the "Canon to the Ordinary" meaning that he or she has the closest access to the Bishop, and often times is given significant assignments by the bishop.

The word Canon indicates that the individual is one of many once lived and work in and for a given order or organization. In the Episcopal Church, a Canon may be either a layperson, Deacon or Priest and is typically a member of the staff of a Diocese or a Cathedral.

We also used the word canon as in "The Canon of Scripture" to indicate the books that make up the Bible.

From Pentecost until the first Sunday of Advent we are in an unnamed season called "Ordinary Time." Unlike the Sundays of Advent or the Sundays in Lent, these

“Green” Sundays have no specific connection to any event within the church year.

For many years the church called these Sundays “after Pentecost” or “after Trinity.” The season was neither Pentecost nor Trinity so welcome to the ordinary time of the year.

To confuse the issue even more, if indeed that is possible, the lessons for each Sunday make up what is called the “propers” and there are assigned readings for years A, B and C which begin with proper 1 and extend through proper 29 and correspond to the date. Some propers are seldom used because Easter is too far forward in the calendar.

Advent begins four weeks prior to Christmas. The Lectionary cycle changes on the first Sunday of Advent. If the year (on that Sunday) is divisible by 3, that is year A.

Today is June 14, 2026. It is the 11th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Proper 6 and Year A.

Do you feel smarter, better informed or ordinary?

Fr. Don+