

**Precatechumenate**

*The liturgy of “Ordinary (ordinal or numbered) Time” coaches and mentors us in Christian growth and development. As catechists and team members, facilitate the spiritual maturing of those to whom you are privileged to introduce the Catholic faith.*

*The 24<sup>th</sup> through the 29th Sundays in Ordinary Time correlate well with the instructional materials in the first two parts of this book. These six Sundays will likely correspond with the Precatechumenate/inquiry period. Chapters one and two of **God Calls You by Name** present liturgical ceremony and etiquette, the order of the Mass and the use and symbolic meaning of material things in Catholic liturgy. These instructions are vital to developing a comfort level with attendance at Sunday Mass. Your pattern of ritual dismissal for reflection on the Scripture readings may also be forming during these weeks.*

*Chapters three, four and five present basic information concerning the Catholic Church, including the Catholic approach to Scripture and the role of Tradition, as well as the nature, structure, symbolism, models, leadership and history of the Church. These topics address key questions of inquirers, and fulfill the goals of the Precatechumenate. They need not be approached in the same order as the book presents them. Issues relating to Catholic teachings on politics will assert themselves forcefully during politically charged years, and may give added urgency to teachings concerning life issues and social policies, described in Chapter 9. The needs of each unique group will fluctuate as well. The themes of Sunday liturgies of September and October are offered here.*

Plan for Year A-B	Plan for Year B-C	Plan for Year C-A
<p><b>24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>  <b>Sirach 27:30-28:9</b>  <b>Psalm 103</b>  <b>Romans 14:7-9</b>  <b>Matthew 18:21-35</b>  <b>GCYBN text: Chapter 1: The Mass</b>  <b>Catechism: Nos. 1066 to 1112</b></p> <p>The Gospel for today is often associated with teachings on forgiving others as we have been forgiven. Readings blend themes of compassion and forgiveness. The rhetorical questions in the first reading from Sirach, the call to live for God in Romans and the parable about forgiving one another from Matthew all urge us to open our hearts to the Word of God and the action of the Holy Spirit. Reflect on the fundamental role of forgiveness in basic Christian living, continue with introductions and storytelling and begin to describe the Catholic liturgy.</p>	<p><b>24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>  <b>Isaiah 50:5-9a</b>  <b>Psalm 116</b>  <b>James 2:14-18</b>  <b>Mark 8:27-35</b>  <b>GCYBN text: Chapter 4: The Church</b>  <b>Catechism Nos. 748-987</b></p> <p>The prophet Isaiah prefigures the passion of Christ; and St. James continues his exhortation on caring for the poor. The gospel of Mark, in which Peter proclaims Jesus as Christ, provides an exceptional scriptural basis for teaching the models and structure of the Church in Chapter 4. Unless this is your initial meeting week, strongly consider advancing this lesson during Year B. If the 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday is also your initial session, compress this teaching with Chapter 5 next week, and conduct introductory activities.</p>	<p><b>24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>  <b>Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14</b>  <b>Psalm 51</b>  <b>1 Timothy 1:12-17</b>  <b>Luke 15:1-32</b>  <b>GCYBN text: Chapter 1: The Mass</b>  <b>Catechism: Nos. 1066 to 1112</b></p> <p>In Exodus, Moses intercedes for the people whom God threatened to punish for engaging in the worship of false gods. In 1 Timothy, Saint Paul proclaims Christ's mercy operating in his own life. The Gospel presents the parables of the lost sheep, the lost coin and the prodigal son. Ponder the powerful lesson taught by the Father's love, continuing the introductory theme of invitation. Moses' prayer of intercession and the father's celebration both provide openings to teach the true and beautiful forms of the Church's worship. If the process begins on the 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday, some overlapping of the initial session with this lesson may be helpful.</p>
<p><b>25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>  <b>Isaiah 55:6-9</b>  <b>Psalm 145</b>  <b>Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a</b>  <b>Matthew 20:1-16a</b>  <b>GCYBN text: Chapter 2: Liturgical Enhancements</b>  <b>Catechism: Nos. 1145 to 1209</b></p> <p>Who hasn't struggled with the apparent unfairness of the landowner in Matthew's parable for the 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday? At the end of a good life, the wage we all receive is the kingdom of heaven. Consider the clear call to holiness opened by Isaiah and St. Paul. Continue studying liturgy and Catholic symbols, and perhaps take the group on a tour of the Church.</p>	<p><b>25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>  <b>Wisdom 2:12, 17-20</b>  <b>Psalm 54</b>  <b>James 3:16-4:3</b>  <b>Mark 9:30-37</b>  <b>GCYBN text: Chapter 5: The History of the Church</b>  <b>The Acts of the Apostles by St. Luke</b></p> <p>Wisdom portrays the trials undergone by those who strive to lead a virtuous life, and St. James contrasts jealousy and wisdom. St. Mark's gospel grapples with the death and resurrection of Christ, and with the apostles' human desire for power. This gospel supports a continued teaching on the nature and history of the Church (Chapter 5). Correlating these readings with the study of the Church will firmly ground Church history in Scripture.</p>	<p><b>25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>  <b>Amos 8:4-7</b>  <b>Psalm 113</b>  <b>1 Timothy, 2:1-8</b>  <b>Luke 16:1-13</b>  <b>GCYBN text: Chapter 2: Liturgical Enhancements</b>  <b>Catechism: Nos. 1145 to 1209</b></p> <p>The prophet Amos protests against the social irresponsibility of the rich and also against their disregard for the Sabbath and religious feasts. The second reading fosters prayer for those in authority and describes Christ's role as mediator. The gospel of the unjust steward may be a challenge, but reflect on the theme of seeking God and turning away from the sinful aspects of the world. The passage from Timothy provides an opening to continue liturgical formation. Consider leading your group on a tour of the Church, showing them the materials and symbols used in worship.</p>