What does "Ordinary Time" Mean?

Each part of the liturgical year has either a special season or is in 'ordinary time'. A special season are things like: Lent, Easter, Advent, and Christmas. Whenever the Church isn't celebrating one of these, it is Ordinary Time.

The English name "Ordinary" is intended to translate the Latin term Tempus per annum (literally "time through the year"). This doesn't mean that Ordinary Time was nothing special, because Jesus preformed miracles all throughout the year. This means that, because Ordinary Time takes up more than half of the liturgical year, it is referred to as: Tempus per annum, or "time through the year."

Ordinary time does not need to be “ordinary,” and is not meant to mean that somehow we get a break from the Liturgical Year. The opposite is true: Ordinary Time celebrates "the mystery of Christ in all its aspects." Many important liturgical celebrations fall during Ordinary Time, including, Trinity, Corpus Christi, All Saints, the Assumption of Mary, and Christ the King. In addition, the Church continues to celebrate Saints days and other events such as The Octave of Christian Unity. The major feasts, when occurring on a Sunday, trump the regular Ordinary Time Sunday lessons and liturgy. In the American Catholic Church, Corpus Christi is usually transferred to a Sunday, so often there are fewer than the 33 or 34 Sundays labeled "Sundays of Ordinary Time," although these Sundays still fall within Ordinary Time. We also may remember and celebrate the parts of Jesus' life that were ordinary, much like our own lives.

The color of green is appropriate because it is the most ordinary color in our natural environment.