

Sacred Music

One of the aspects of the Traditional Latin Mass which attracts many people is its employment of the treasury of Catholic music. For centuries, the Church has been one of the primary instruments of development of not only music meant specifically for the Liturgy, but also motets, organ pieces, and other "classical" music intended to elevate the listener's mind to God.

At the Assumption Church Tridentine Mass, we make full use of this rich body of music. Music that is recognizably Catholic, such as Gregorian Chant and sacred polyphony, as well as preludes and postludes that so fittingly transport one's mind to the sacred. We also employ traditional hymns, many of which are not often played elsewhere.

Windsor Tridentine Mass Association

Since 1991, the Windsor Tridentine Mass Association has worked to promote the Tridentine Latin Mass in the Windsor-Detroit region. A Private Association of the Faithful, the WTMA was founded to administer the Tridentine Mass in Windsor. Special Masses are occasionally held featuring prominent celebrants from the worldwide Latin Mass movement. Guests have included the late writer Fr. John Mole, OMI; and from the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter, Fr. George Gabet, FSSP, former North American District Superior, and Fr. Josef Bisig, FSSP, co-founder and former Superior.

Let us pray the Latin Mass



Assumption Catholic Church

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Fr. Peter Hrytsyk, Chaplain & Celebrant
Fr. Paul Walsh, Pastor

1962 Tridentine Latin Mass Schedule

Every Sunday at 2:00 PM
Christmas and New Year's Days at 2:00 PM
Confessions at 1:30 PM
Rosary at 1:40 PM

Assumption Church in Windsor, Ontario is fortunate to celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass according to both the 1962 and post-1970 editions of the Roman Missal. The former is popularly known as the "Tridentine Mass," and the latter is the form of Mass celebrated in most Roman Catholic parishes today. The Tridentine Mass, which was promulgated in 1570 by Pope St. Pius V after the Council of Trent ("Tridentine" means "pertaining to Trent"), underwent a number of minor revisions through the years. As celebrated today, the Tridentine Mass follows the edition of the Roman Missal promulgated by Blessed Pope John XXIII in 1962. After the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965), a much more thorough revision of the Roman Missal was completed in 1970. This revision implemented many changes in the way Mass was celebrated.

While many Catholics embraced these changes enthusiastically, not all did. Those who were uncomfortable with the new rite of Mass longed for the beauty, reverence, formality, and profound expressions of holy truths of the old. Out of pastoral concern for the faithful who preferred the older form of the Liturgy, His Holiness Pope John Paul II gave permission in 1984 – and widened this permission in 1988 – for it to be celebrated in those dioceses whose bishop permitted it. In 2007, His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI widened the permission yet again, allowing any priest to celebrate the Old Form Mass, which he entitled, the "Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite," without the bishop's permission.

His Excellency Bishop Ronald Fabbro, Bishop of London, Ontario, is among the bishops who graciously gave permission for the 1962 Latin Mass to be celebrated in their diocese under

Pope John Paul II's 1988 indult. The first Tridentine Mass in the Diocese of London was established in 1991, and is currently a part of historic Our Lady of the Assumption Parish.

Assumption is Ontario's oldest Catholic parish, founded in 1767 to serve the Huron Indians and French settlers. The present church dates to 1874, making it one of the oldest churches in the Southwestern Ontario and Southeast Michigan. Because of its history and size – Assumption is the largest church in Windsor – it has served as the site of most of the major regional diocesan liturgical events. In 2007, recognizing its architectural appropriateness, Assumption Church opened its doors to the Tridentine Mass Community. With its ornate interior, magnificent high altar, and three-manual Casavant organ, Assumption is the best possible setting in Windsor for the Traditional Latin Mass.

The Latin Mass Community is deeply grateful to Bishop Fabbro, Auxiliary Bishop Daniels, Father Walsh, Father Hrytsyk, and the members of Assumption Parish for their support.

Why is Latin the Church's official language?

When the apostles first carried Christ's Good News to the world, they traveled throughout the Roman Empire, which governed most of the lands around the Mediterranean Sea and in western Europe. Since the Romans spoke Latin, this language was one used by many people at that time, much as today many people in the world know English because it is economically and socially advantageous to do so. As the Roman Empire disintegrated in the 4th and 5th centuries, the emerging Church, led by the Bishop of Rome, stepped in to provide a stabilizing cultural force, and through the centuries has retained the use of Latin in official communications as a means to unity.

The Latin language is the national property of no one people, yet, through learning, can be common to all. This feature makes it especially appropriate for a universal Church. The use of Latin by the Church started as a happenstance of history and geography, but has enabled the Church to maintain unity amidst the disciples she has made of all nations.

Why attend Mass in a foreign language?

Over twenty approved rites of Catholic Liturgy are in use worldwide. Many of these have never used Latin but have always been in the native language of the local people. The retention of Latin for the Liturgy was a particular feature of west European liturgical development, and extended likewise to areas of the world evangelized by west European missionaries.

Most of the faithful who attend the Latin Mass do not know Latin. So why do so many of us today still prefer the Latin Mass?

We choose the Latin Mass, not because of an attachment to the language, but because we believe it enhances our spiritual lives:

We find the Latin Mass beautiful. The magnificence and solemnity of the Latin Mass are the Church's way of giving back to God grateful worship for all that He has given us. We believe beautiful Liturgy reverently offered illuminates the mystery of God's very Presence among us. The rich sensory experience of a traditional Mass remind us that the Mass is a foretaste of the heavenly Liturgy we will celebrate in the New Jerusalem at the end of time.

We are uplifted by the quiet reverence that is displayed before, during, and after Mass. We pray quietly before Mass begins (or remain

quiet so as not to disturb others at prayer), and offer prayers of thanksgiving once Mass is over. We find the dignity and formality of the Latin Mass conducive to an encounter with the Divine.

We appreciate that Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament is central in the sanctuary. We show Him reverence in traditional ways of posture and quiet demeanor.

The Gregorian Chant sung in the Latin Mass enriches us. The Church has used this manner of singing her public prayers for many centuries. We find chant to be "poetry which sings on earth the mysteries of heaven and prepares us for the canticles of eternity." There is even scientific evidence to show that chant aids one's spiritual practice by causing brain waves to change to the alpha frequency wherein deeper states of prayer and meditation are possible.

We like participating in the popular devotions that have accompanied the Latin liturgy for many centuries to open their treasury of graces to us.

The Latin Missals we use offer a wealth of teaching about the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. We *know* the Mass if not all the words of the language. Our missals contain beautifully worded English translations alongside the Latin that convey God's awesome majesty and teach us how to pray with humility and piety.

I am not familiar with the Latin Mass. What should I expect if I attend?

You can feel confused at a Latin Mass if you do not know what to expect and why some things are done as they are. Here are some guidelines to help you better appreciate this treasure of your Catholic heritage:

✚ **In the back of the church you will find red missalettes containing the Ordinary of the Mass (the part that stays the same each Mass). You will also find a handout with the Propers (the part with the prayers, and readings for a particular day of the liturgical year) in both Latin and English. Blue hymnals contain the music specified in the handouts.**

✚ Knowing when to stand, sit, or kneel can be hard for a newcomer. Just follow what others around you are doing. A sheet is also available in the back of the church that explains when it is customary to change posture.

✚ **Some parts of the Mass are for the priest only, and some are for the people and priest together. At a Mass where the choir sings, the choir sings all the parts of the people. You may sing all of these, but if you are not comfortable doing so, you may follow along by reading silently the English translation in your missal.**

✚ Sometimes the choir sings its part while the priest says his part quietly at the altar. Because it takes longer for the choir to sing their prayers than it does for the priest to say his, the two will overlap, and they will not be doing the same thing at the same time. You can either follow the choir, or read what the priest is saying.

✚ **The priest offers Mass facing the altar because he and the people together are offering worship and sacrifice to God. He is not turning his back on the people to exclude us. Rather, we are all facing God.**

✚ During the prayers surrounding the Consecration and the Consecration itself, there is silence as the priest quietly prays

the words that change the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ. You may read what he says in your missal. Appreciate this silence as a time of hushed awe in which we give thanks for the mystery of Christ's saving sacrifice and for His coming to each of us in the Eucharist.

✚ **Holy Communion is received kneeling at the altar rail on the tongue. "Amen" is not said when you receive.**

✚ If you are not Catholic, you are requested not to receive Communion. If you are Catholic and know yourself to be in a state of mortal sin, you are to refrain from receiving Communion. A prayer to make a spiritual Communion at the time others receive can be found in the back of the red missalette.

✚ **Those new to the Latin Mass often find that they have to attend several times to feel confident in their understanding of all that is taking place. Be patient if you feel unsure on your first few visits. In time you will become familiar with the order of the Mass.**

When you worship at the Traditional Latin Mass, you are joining a community of believers not only in this day and age, but you unite also with the faithful who have worshipped in this manner for nearly two thousand years. At Assumption Church, we welcome you to pray the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in Latin with us. If you have questions, our Chaplain, Father Peter Hrytsyk, will be pleased to answer them.