

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 St. Benedict Tridentine Mass, a full choir sings every Sunday of the year, making 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.

St. Benedict Community

Since 1991, the Windsor Tridentine Mass Association and its successor entity, the St. Benedict Tridentine Catholic Community, have worked to promote the Traditional Latin Mass in the Windsor-Detroit area. Special Liturgies are occasionally held featuring prominent Latin Mass celebrants from across the world. Guests have included Msgr. Arthur Calkins from the Vatican's Ecclesia Dei Commission; Fr. Josef Bisig, co-founder and former Superior of the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter; and Fr. Jonathon Robinson, founder and Superior of the Toronto Oratory. All who attend our Latin Mass are invited to join the St. Benedict Community using the registration forms available at the entrance to the church. Like a parish, St. Benedict maintains its own Sacramental registers, and all of the Sacraments are available according to the Traditional Roman Ritual.

Let us pray the Latin Mass



St. Benedict Tridentine Catholic Community

at Assumption Church
350 Huron Church Road
Windsor, Ontario N9C 2J9
(519) 734-1335 or from U.S.: (248) 250-2740
www.windsorlatinmass.org
E-mail: info@windsorlatinmass.org

Fr. Peter Hrytsyk, Chaplain & Celebrant

Tridentine Latin Mass Schedule

Every Sunday at 2:00 PM
Every Tuesday at 7:00 PM
Christmas and New Year's Days at 2:00 PM
Good Friday Service at 5:30 PM
Confessions and Rosary Sundays at 1:30 PM
Benediction After Mass on Second Sundays

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 expanded the permission yet again, allowing any priest to celebrate the Old Form Mass, to which he gave the new title, 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 diocesan Community based at Assumption Church.

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 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 St. Benedict Tridentine Community is deeply grateful to Bishop Fabbro, Father Hrytsyk, Father Riegel, 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 missals 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 others around you, or refer to the guidelines in the margins of the red missal.
- ❖ **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 missal.
- ❖ **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 Mass. Volunteers at the entrance to the church will also be happy to sit with you and guide you through 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 St. Benedict, 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.