

# Tridentine Community News

February 12, 2006

Last week's Tridentine News page mentioned the increasing number of Tridentine Mass sites worldwide. Some of those sites are nearby, while others are in well-known business or vacation destinations. Many of them have interesting history, music programs, or architectural features. As a regular part of this column, we will introduce you to some of the better-known among them. In your own travels, you may wish to visit some of these churches and chapels to broaden your realm of experience of Latin Masses. You are almost certain to feel at home at most any Tridentine Mass anywhere in the world, regardless of the local language. The consistency of the Traditional Roman Liturgy, in both Latin language and manner of celebration, is solid proof that we are a catholic (small "c") Church.

Our first "Tridentine Travelogues" will cover nearby Mass sites that you may well have heard about. Although the Archdiocese of Detroit only approved the Tridentine Mass in 2004, our neighboring dioceses have had them for quite some time.

## *St. Michael Church, Windsor*

The indult Mass at St. Josaphat is in many respects the direct descendant of the indult Tridentine Mass at St. Michael Church in Windsor. Many of the same people attend and volunteer at both Mass sites, and the music programs are interrelated.

In response to a petition from a joint group of Canadians and Americans, the Diocese of London, Ontario authorized a Tridentine Mass in Windsor in 1991. From 1991-2004, this was the closest authorized Tridentine Mass for most metropolitan Detroit residents. A second Mass was authorized by the diocese in the city of London several years later. The Windsor Mass has had several homes over the years, including the Assumption High School Chapel and the rather humble chapel of the former Villa Maria Nursing Home.

In 2003, newly installed Bishop Ronald Fabbro permitted the Windsor community to move to St. Michael's, a more architecturally appropriate location for this sacred liturgy. The opening Mass at St. Michael's in October, 2003 celebrated by Fr. George Gabet, North American District Superior of the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter, was the first public Solemn High Tridentine Mass offered in the metropolitan Detroit area since 1970.

Originally built in the 1940s as a German ethnic parish, St. Michael's now hosts four congregations: the original Germans, the clustered parishes of Immaculate Conception and Sacred Heart, and the Tridentine community.



Mass is held every Sunday at 2:00 PM. The current celebrant is Fr. Ulysses Lefaiwe, a diocesan priest. With the support of the Diocese of London, the Windsor Tridentine Community hosts occasional special event Masses celebrated by prominent figures from the worldwide Latin Mass movement. Previous guests have included the late author Fr. John Mole, OMI and Fr. Josef Bisig, the founder of the Fraternity of St. Peter.

St. Josaphat Tridentine Music Director Wassim Sarweh was formerly in charge of music at St. Michael's, and remains their substitute organist. St. Michael's current Music Director Matthew Meloche is our substitute Tridentine organist at St. Josaphat. Matthew has a blog which discusses St. Michael's, St. Josaphat, and liturgical music in general, along with a healthy dose of commentary on Canadian politics. Take a look at: <http://mmeloche.blogspot.com/> as well as the St. Michael's web page at [www.windsorlatinmass.org](http://www.windsorlatinmass.org).

In many ways, St. Michael's functions as a virtual cluster partner of St. Josaphat. Located just six miles apart from one another, the two Tridentine communities have helped each other out in numerous ways and hope to continue collaborating to improve the quality and number of Traditional Latin Masses in metropolitan Detroit.