

Tridentine Community News

December 16, 2007

Posture at the Tridentine Mass

We welcome all newcomers to the Extraordinary Form of the Mass. Since the publication of the *Motu Proprio, Summórum Pontificum*, and since the commencement of the Fourth Sunday Tridentine Mass at St. Joseph Church, we realize that there are many in our congregation who may not be familiar with the norms for following the Classic Form of Holy Mass.

The first issue to address is when to stand, sit, and kneel during the Mass. The rules are different for a Sung Mass, as we have on Sundays and Holy Days, versus for a Low Mass, as we have at St. Josaphat on Mondays at 7:00 PM.

Missa Cantata and Solemn High (Sung Masses)

During the entrance procession and <i>Aspérge</i>	Stand
From the beginning of Mass to the <i>Glória</i>	Kneel
At the intoning of the <i>Glória</i> <i>If the congregation sings, remain standing. If the choir only sings, sit if and when the celebrant sits.</i>	Stand
<i>Dóminus vobiscum</i> and Collect(s)	Stand
At the Epistle	Sit
At the Gospel	Stand
At the English Readings and Homily <i>Stand for the reading of the Gospel in English</i>	Sit
At the <i>Credo</i> <i>Kneel from "Et incarnátus est" to "Et homo factus est"</i>	Stand
<i>Dóminus vobiscum, Orémus</i>	Stand
During the Offertory	Sit
Preface dialogue to <i>Sanctus</i>	Stand
<i>Sanctus, Canon</i>	Kneel
At the <i>Pater Noster</i>	Stand
<i>Agnus Dei, Communion</i>	Kneel
<i>Dóminus vobiscum</i> and Postcommunion Collect	Stand
At the Blessing	Kneel
Last Gospel to exit of celebrant <i>Kneel during "Et Verbum caro factus est"</i>	Stand

Low Mass

During the celebrant's entrance	Stand
From beginning to Gospel	Kneel
At the Gospel	Stand
At the English Readings and Homily <i>Stand for the reading of the Gospel in English</i>	Sit
At the <i>Credo</i> (if there is one) <i>Kneel from "Et incarnátus est" to "Et homo factus est"</i>	Stand
<i>Dóminus vobiscum, Orémus</i>	Stand
During the Offertory	Sit
Preface dialogue to <i>Sanctus</i>	Sit
From the <i>Sanctus</i> to the Last Gospel	Kneel
At the Last Gospel	Stand
Prayers after Low Mass	Kneel
Exit of celebrant	Stand

If Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament follows Holy Mass, kneel for the entire Benediction ceremony.

Reception of Holy Communion

Holy Communion is distributed at the Communion Rail. Catholics in the state of grace are invited to approach the rail and kneel before it. Standing before the rail is allowed if you have difficulty kneeling. Communion is given on the tongue only. If you are accustomed to receiving in the hand, please be aware that this is not an option in the Tridentine Mass.

If there is a Communion Cloth covering the altar rail, hold your hands underneath it. You may use your hands to hold up more of the cloth to expand the surface area available to catch any fragments of the Host that may fall. Unlike in the Ordinary Form, the communicant does not say "Amen" to the priest's prayer; the priest alone says the "Amen." Longstanding custom is for the communicant to open his or her mouth reasonably wide, extend the tongue slightly, and close one's eyes so as not to distract the priest or inadvertently sway the head while the priest makes the sign of the cross with the Host. The priest should be able to place the Host on the tongue slowly and in a dignified way.

After receiving Holy Communion, when standing up, please take care not to tug on the Communion Cloth, lest it detach and be pulled off the rail. If you need support, brace yourself against the solid rail itself.

If you are unable to approach the Communion Rail, inform an usher and sit in a front pew. The priest or deacon will bring Holy Communion to you.

Answer to Our Wedding Question

In our August 19, 2007 column about the Extraordinary Form of Matrimony, we posed the question, what happens when a Nuptial Mass is scheduled on a high ranking feast day, such as a Sunday? We had to research the answer for the first Tridentine Nuptial Mass, held last Sunday, December 8, at St. Joseph Church.

The rule is that a Nuptial Mass is considered a Votive Mass of Second Class. If a wedding is scheduled on a First Class Feast Day – December 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, is a First Class Feast – the Mass must be that of the higher ranking feast, with Commemoration of the Nuptial Mass by way of second Collect, Secret, and Postcommunion prayers from the Nuptial Mass Propers. This nuance of rubrics means that someone attending last Saturday's wedding Mass was also fulfilling his or her Holy Day Obligation, as the entirety of the Mass of the Immaculate Conception was heard.

Christmas Midnight Mass This Year

Many people expressed the wish for a Midnight Tridentine Mass last year. Others preferred the usual times on Christmas Day. This year, everyone will be accommodated: There will be a Christmas Eve midnight Orchestral Mass at St. Joseph Church; a 9:30 AM Christmas Day Solemn High Mass at St. Josaphat; and a 2:00 PM Solemn Missa Cantata at Assumption-Windsor.