

Tridentine Community News

October 14, 2012 – Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost

A Welcome to Newcomers to the Latin Mass

To all those who are attending the Traditional Latin Mass for the first time – or almost the first time – today, welcome! We're glad you have joined us for the classic Catholic Liturgy. Today's column will address some of the basic questions new visitors to the Latin Mass might have.

Nomenclature and Language

Several names are used to refer to the Traditional Latin Mass:

- 1) Tridentine [Mass]: This adjective refers to the city of Trent in present-day Italy, where the Traditional Mass was codified during the Council of Trent in 1570.
- 2) Extraordinary Form [of Holy Mass] or "EF": This term was coined by our present day Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI.
- 3) Usus Antiquior [Ancient Use] or Old Mass
- 4) TLM – Abbreviation of Traditional Latin Mass

The post-Vatican II Mass is known as the Novus Ordo [New Order] or Ordinary Form of Holy Mass. While the Ordinary Form is most often celebrated in the vernacular, the term "Latin Mass" can also be used to describe an Ordinary Form Mass celebrated in Latin, as is done at several parishes in the Archdiocese of Detroit.

A Low Mass is one in which the celebrant sings nothing. In a High Mass, the celebrant chants the Mass parts, and the music and ceremonial are more elaborate, befitting an occasion of greater solemnity. Everything "inside" a High Mass must be in Latin. The Opening and Closing Hymns, as well as the Homily, are considered outside the Mass, and thus may be in the vernacular. At a Low Mass, any music that might be used is external to the Mass and thus may employ the vernacular.

The Ordinary and Propers

The Ordinary of the Mass is that part which remains unchanged at every Mass: The Prayers at the Foot of the Altar, the Canon (Eucharistic Prayer), the *Pater Noster* (Our Father), and the Prayers Before Communion are all part of the Ordinary. The Ordinary is found in the Red Latin/English Missals available at the entrance to the church.

The Propers are those parts of the Mass which differ from Mass to Mass. These include the Collects (Opening, Secret, and Postcommunion Prayers), the Antiphons (Introit, Offertory, and Communion), the Readings (Epistle and Gospel), and the Preface. The Propers for a given Mass are found in the folded handout distributed along with the Red Missals.

The Posture of the Priest and Role of the Choir

For much of the Mass, the priest stands at the altar facing the altar crucifix in the same direction as the people. He is leading us in prayer, facing Liturgical East, where Christ is the Rising Sun.

In a High Mass, the cantor or choir sings the Antiphons and Mass Setting (*Kyrie, Glória, Credo, Sanctus, and Agnus Dei*) while the celebrant recites them quietly. The choir can therefore be on a different track than the celebrant. If you are new to the Mass, focus on the celebrant, as that will help you stay with the progression of the Mass. The notes in the margin of the Red Missals will help you understand where we are in the Mass at any given point. After you become familiar with the structure of the Mass, you will be better able to focus on the music.

Making the Responses and Reception of Communion

The congregation is invited to sing the responses and Gregorian Chant Mass Setting in a High Mass along with the choir. In a Low Mass, many in our congregation prefer to pray most of the responses silently, while the altar servers make audible responses.

As a sign of reverence for the Blessed Sacrament, Holy Communion is received on the tongue, kneeling at the Communion Rail. If you cannot kneel or cannot come to the rail, please inform an usher, and Communion will be brought to you.

When and Where are Masses Held?

The Tridentine Mass is offered at St. Josaphat Church in Detroit every Sunday at 9:30 AM and every Monday at 7:00 PM; at Assumption Church in Windsor every Sunday at 2:00 PM and every Tuesday at 7:00 PM; and at additional times and churches as listed at the bottom of this weekly column.

How Can I Learn More?

Everyone who attends the Extraordinary Form was new to it at some time. We all know how it feels to be a little disoriented with an unfamiliar liturgy. If you would like someone to sit with you during Mass and help you follow the Mass, please ask one of the volunteers at the entrance to the church. If you are a Latin Mass veteran, consider keeping an eye out for those who are new to the Mass and might benefit from a helping hand.

Tridentine Masses This Coming Week

Mon. 10/15 7:00 PM: Low Mass at *St. Josaphat* (St. Teresa of Avila, Virgin)
Tue. 10/16 7:00 PM: Low Mass at *Assumption-Windsor* (St. Hedwig, Widow)
Thu. 10/18 7:00 PM: High Mass at *St. Josaphat* (St. Luke, Evangelist)
Sun. 10/21 Noon: High Mass at *St. Albertus* (Twenty-first Sunday After Pentecost)
Sun. 10/21 4:00 PM: Solemn High Mass at *All Saints, Flint* (Twenty-first Sunday After Pentecost) – 24th Anniversary of the Flint Tridentine Mass