

Tridentine Community News

January 1, 2017 - The Octave of Christmas: The Circumcision of Our Lord

Ten Year Anniversary of Fr. Peter Hrytsyk as Chaplain of St. Benedict Tridentine Community

Time flies when things are going well: December of 2016 marked ten years since Fr. Peter Hrytsyk became Chaplain of what is now the St. Benedict Tridentine Community in Windsor. In the fall of 2006, longtime Chaplain Fr. Ulysse Lefaive announced his impending retirement. Panic initially set in, as the Diocese of London's then-Auxiliary Bishop Anthony Daniels charged the Windsor Tridentine Mass Association with finding our own next chaplain. Then we recalled that a certain priest had been attending our Mass on and off for months, sitting in the back of St. Michael's Church. Why was he there? Did the Mass interest him? He had even donated a humeral veil for Benediction to the community. Various members of the community recognized him as "that serious priest from the Ukrainian church."



Efforts to contact Fr. Peter were initially unsuccessful. Today he admits he intentionally avoided our calls, concerned about making a new commitment. But once over his initial reluctance, Fr. Peter enthusiastically embraced learning the rubrics and chanting of the Mass. He commissioned the creation of one of the finest sets of liturgical vestments this author has ever seen. He encouraged our choir to develop as a professional ensemble. He supported the community's move in 2007 from St. Michael's to the more majestic Assumption Church, and in 2014 to the still impressive St. Alphonsus and Holy Name of Mary Churches. The organizational structure of St. Benedict's has served as a model for other Tridentine Mass communities in the area, including the Oakland County Latin Mass Association and the Jackson Tridentine community.

Under Fr. Peter's leadership the community has grown from a weekly average of 30 in attendance in 2006 to over 100 today, with around 400 registered parishioners. He is a familiar face at many Latin Mass sites in metro Detroit, filling in when needed at the Academy of the Sacred Heart, Old St. Mary's, St. Josaphat, St. Joseph, and elsewhere. Many are unaware that he also serves as Assistant Principal of Cardinal Carter Catholic Secondary School in Leamington and Assistant Pastor of Ss. Vladimir & Olga Ukrainian Catholic Church in Windsor. During a recent strike at

the Windsor-Essex Catholic School District, Fr. Peter even spent a few weeks doing the tasks of a janitor at his school, cleaning the bathrooms. Would it surprise you to learn that he only sleeps a few hours per night? Please keep Fr. Peter in your prayers as this energetic priest continues to raise the bar for excellence in local celebrations of the Traditional Latin Mass.

Thank You to Our Choir Members

Last week we made note of the many volunteers without whom it would be virtually impossible to offer many of the Holy Masses in the Extraordinary Form which are available in metro Detroit and Windsor. Today we wish to thank our paid, professional choir members, without whose consistent attendance we would not be able to enjoy the broad repertoire of music we hear every week. It is worth noting the commendable commitment of most of these individuals to sing at multiple sites.

Oakland County Latin Mass Association Choir: Wassim Sarweh, Director; Maggie Bickerstaff, Laura Hurajt, Hani Sarweh

St. Benedict Tridentine Community Choir: Wassim Sarweh, Director; Maggie Bickerstaff, Mary Grivas, Steven Janisse, Jackie Robitaille, Hani Sarweh, Christopher Sayers

Old St. Mary's Choir: Wassim Sarweh, Director; Maggie Bickerstaff, Mary Grivas, Laura Hurajt, Hani Sarweh, Christopher Sayers

Cardinal Burke Announces All Ad Orientem Masses at Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Crosse

On the same weekend of December 10 that Raymond Cardinal Burke celebrated the first Pontifical Solemn Tridentine Mass at La Crosse, Wisconsin's Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, His Eminence also announced that henceforth, all Ordinary Form Masses at the Shrine will be celebrated *ad orientem*, following Robert Cardinal Sarah's request in July that churches begin offering Masses in the traditional orientation during Advent. May God reward this faithful shepherd as he continues to stand up for the immemorial traditions of the Church, even when such stances may be met with resistance.

Tridentine Masses This Coming Week

Mon. 01/02 7:00 PM: Low Mass at *St. Josaphat* (Holy Name of Jesus)

Tue. 01/03 7:00 PM: Low Mass at *Holy Name of Mary, Windsor* (Feria in Christmastide)

Fri. 01/06 7:00 PM: High Mass at ***Old St. Mary's, Detroit*** (The Epiphany of Our Lord) – First Friday – Choir will sing Marc-Antoine Charpentier's *Messe de Minuit de Noël*. Devotions precede Mass. Reception will follow Mass in the Parish Hall.

Fri. 01/06 7:00 PM: High Mass at *St. Joseph* (The Epiphany of Our Lord) – First Friday

Sat. 01/07 8:30 AM: Low Mass at *Miles Christi* (Saturday of Our Lady)