

Tridentine Community News

October 24, 2021 – Twenty-second Sunday After Pentecost

Christopher Sayers, R.I.P.



The metro Detroit and Windsor Traditional Latin Mass scene lost a major figure last week with the unexpected passing of Chris Sayers at age 60 on Wednesday, October 13.

Chris' father and uncle were both Episcopal priests. In the early 1980s, Chris became one of the prime movers for the restoration of the 1928 Book of Common Prayer, the Anglican equivalent of the Tridentine Mass.

Chris became an active member of and singer at St. John's Episcopal Church across from the Fox Theatre on Woodward Ave. in downtown Detroit.

Chris was also an old high school friend of this writer. At Detroit Country Day, Chris was known for his musical talents playing the saxophone and clarinet, and for taking the lead roles in the school musicals. He also shared an interest in mainframe computers and became a partner of this writer in a business which sold and serviced small mainframe systems. While in high school he gently encouraged this writer to return to the practice of the Catholic faith. Later, he made persistent and thoughtful encouragement to start serving at the altar. At least one Catholic thus owes his reversion and volunteering for the Church to Chris' calm, convincing, and steady persuasion.

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When the Tridentine Mass began to gain traction in 2003, Chris offered to help develop a choral program worthy of the Traditional Liturgy. With extensive connections to professional singers and musicians, Chris became a member of Wassim Sarweh's choir, which has sung at St. Benedict (Assumption, St. Alphonsus, and Holy Name of Mary Churches in Windsor), St. Josaphat, the Oakland County Latin Mass Association/Orchard Lake, and Old St. Mary's. Chris also believed in the importance of putting the choir on the road, singing at special Masses all around the region, including St. Hugo, St. Aloysius, Shrine of the Little Flower, St. Matthew in Flint, and Holy Family in Saginaw. The choral sound you associate with Wassim's choir is in part due to Chris' skill in assembling talent.

When special occasion Masses needed additional personnel, Chris rounded up many of those people, including such prominent local figures as WRCJ-FM's Dave Wagner and former Kirk in the Hills Music Director and Basso Profundo Glenn Miller.

Have you ever thought about the paperwork and administration that need to go on behind the scenes to make a choir function? Most likely you haven't, because Chris did much of that work so that you didn't need to. But reflect on that for a moment...music selections need to be organized, schedules maintained, sheet music distributed to the choir members, and so forth. A natural organizer, Chris did all that. For example, he maintained a spreadsheet for the St. Benedict, OCLMA, and Old St. Mary's TLM choirs containing links to the sheet music the choir required for each week's selections.

A firm believer that quality altar serving needed to complement the singing if we were to enjoy first class liturgy, Chris occasionally volunteered to help teach some of our newer altar servers. Recently and memorably at the OCLMA/Orchard Lake, when servers got flummoxed during the revesting of the priest before

Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament, because the choir is located next to the altar in that chapel, Chris calmly and professionally stepped up and helped get the celebrant properly vested in cope.

Chris did all of this work

without seeking credit or attention. Week in and week out, he could be counted on to support the choirs, even if he wasn't actually singing at a particular site at the moment. Former St. Benedict and Phoenix, Arizona cathedral music director Matthew Meloche marveled at Chris' efficient competence and came up with a most fitting ersatz title for him: "MC of the Choir Loft". On top of these organizational skills, of course, Chris remained a talented singer of both Gregorian Chant and sacred polyphony.

Our regional Latin Mass scene will have a difficult time replacing a man of such dedication, talent, and dependability. Requiem Masses for Chris will be scheduled soon in both Windsor and Detroit. *Réquiem aeternam dona ei, Domine, et lux perpétua luceat ei. Requiescat in pace. Amen.*

Date	September 12, 2021	September 19, 2021	September 26, 2021	October 1, 2021	October 3, 2021
Feast	16th Sunday after Pentecost	17th Sunday after Pentecost	18th Sunday after Pentecost	S. Feasts	19th Sunday after Pentecost
Location	St. Alphonsus OCLMA at OLS Shrine Chapel and Old St. Mary's OCLMA: 7:55 AM (9:00 AM Mass) OSM: 8:45 AM (10:00 AM Mass)	St. Alphonsus OCLMA at OLS Shrine Chapel	St. Alphonsus OCLMA at OLS Shrine Chapel	Old St. Mary's	Holy Name of Mary OCLMA at OLS Shrine Chapel
Call time		OCLMA: 7:55 AM (9:00 AM Mass)	OCLMA: 7:55 AM (9:00 AM Mass)	5:40 PM (7:00 PM Mass)	OCLMA: 7:55 AM (9:00 AM Mass)
Benediction?					
Absences or [Choristers]	Windsor: Cantor(s) only(?) OCLMA: [Anne and Jacob (organist)] Wassim et. al. at OSM	Windsor: Cantor(s) only(?)	Windsor: Cantor(s) only(?)		Windsor: Cantor(s) only(?)
Additional Sub.					
Prelude or Entrance					
Opening Hymn or Processional	<i>O merciful Redeemer (Col 53)</i>	<i>Sing of Mary pure and lovely (CBW II 613)</i>	<i>Lord of all hopefulness (CBW III 497)</i>	<i>My Shepherd will supply my need (Col 45)</i>	<i>Be thou my vision (Col 531)</i>
Mass Setting	Mass IX, Credo III	Mass IX, Credo III	Mass IX, Credo III	<i>Missa Çaça - Morales</i>	Mass XI
Mass Setting (OCLMA)				N/A	
Offertory	<i>Ave maris stella (TRH 147)</i>	<i>Stabat mater dolorosa (SB 33)</i>	<i>Cor dulce, cor amabile (SB 58) (w/Sarweh descant)</i>	<i>Iste Confessor Domini (SB 162)</i>	<i>O quanta, qualis (SJ Hymnal) (Accomp. CBW II 549)</i>
Offertory (OCLMA)				N/A	
Communion	<i>Ave verum corpus - Eigar OCLMA, Anne solo throughout OSM: Mary, soloist</i>	<i>Adeamus Te, Christe - Dubois (TRH 45)</i>	<i>Jubilata Deo - Mozart</i>	<i>O nata lux - Tallis</i>	<i>Ave verum corpus - Saint-Saens</i>
Communion (OCLMA or additional)				N/A	
Closing Hymn or Recessional	<i>The Church's one foundation (CBW II 604) w/Louis descant on stanza 5 (OSM only)</i>	<i>Love divine, all loves excelling (CBW II 454)</i>	<i>Praise the Lord, ye heav'n's adore him (CBW II 556)</i>	<i>Crown him with many crowns (CBW II 549) (w/Descant)</i>	<i>O Queen of the Holy Rosary (SB 157)</i>