

Tridentine Community News

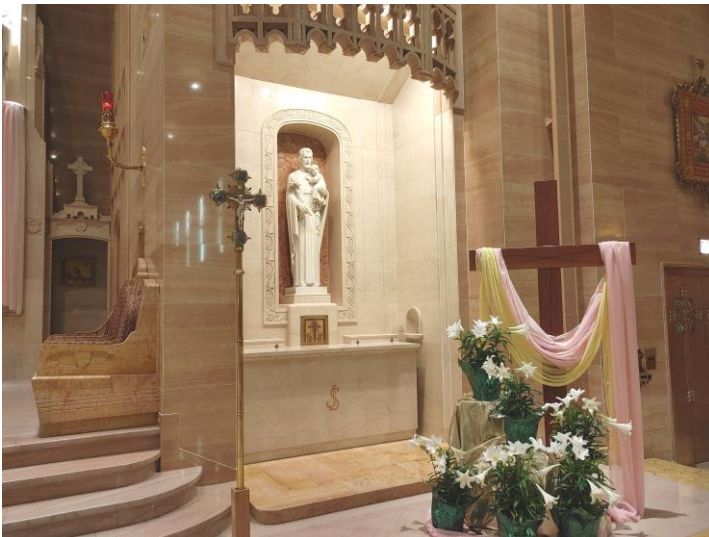
June 5, 2022 – Pentecost Sunday

Holy Family Detroit Sunday Mass Now Every Week



Holy Family Church in Detroit will increase the frequency of its Sunday High Masses to every Sunday at 9:30 AM, starting today, June 5. Previously it was only held on the First Sunday of each month. The hot breakfast will continue to be offered after Mass, on First Sundays only. The Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 12:00 Noon Low Masses will also continue. The only remaining Novus Ordo Mass at the parish will be the 11:30 AM Italian Mass on Sundays.

Credence Tables Built into the Wall



Churches built before Vatican II typically had two or more Side Altars. Nowadays, those Side Altars are mostly relegated to being devotional shrines or worse, flower tables. They were, however, originally built for the celebration of Holy Mass, usually by the priests in a parish fulfilling their obligation to offer Mass every day. To this day, churches where the Traditional Mass plays a significant role, such as the London Oratory and Rome's Santissima Trinità dei Pellegrini, have Low Masses going on at Side Altars throughout the day. Here in metro Detroit, we still use Side Altars for Low Masses on All Souls Day.

Because of space restrictions, and also to simplify things for a priest offering Mass without an altar server, Side Altars often had credence tables built into the wall on the right (Epistle) side of the altar. The wine and water cruets, Lavábo dish and cloth, and Communion paten were kept on those credence tables. Look for them the next time you stop at a side altar, particularly a space-restricted one. They're proof that Side Altars are meant to be places for Mass to be offered, not just pretty devotional sites in a church. [Photo of Side Altar at St. Peter in the Loop Church, Chicago]

The Hrytsyk Request

And now for something completely different: What does a 1970s game show have to do with what goes on at the altar at a Tridentine Mass?

Have you ever noticed the priest having a brief conversation with one or more of the altar servers at the altar during Mass? What could they be talking about? Well, usually it's about something forgotten or needed at the altar. Perhaps there was no priest's host on the paten, or perhaps Father needs a sip of water. These are quite normal issues that arise from time to time.

Those who attend Windsor's St. Benedict Tridentine Community may have noticed that these sorts of mini-conversations take place with Fr. Peter Hrytsyk more frequently than with other priests. And this is where the game show connection comes in.



The \$20,000 Pyramid was a game show that debuted in the 1970s in which one contestant was tasked with guessing what another contestant was hinting about, as the latter was trying to communicate a concept that was displayed on a board

behind and out of sight of the first contestant. If the guesser guessed correctly, that space on the pyramid would turn and become a prize won.

So how does this relate to Fr. Peter? Well, Fr. Peter's requests are often...obscure. And often unaccompanied by a full explanation. The altar server just gets...*the look*. And speaking from personal experiences too numerous to mention, this particular writer has often felt like that contestant on *The \$20,000 Pyramid* having to guess what Fr. Peter wants, because words do not always accompany *the look*. And so like the contestant, the server starts guessing: What is it you need, Father? A corporal? More hosts? Another ciborium? The answer is not always obvious; sometimes the actual request is quite detailed: "Bring me a purificator, but the kind made of softer fabric that has the cross one quarter of the way up the front."



In fairness, we need to consider Fr. Peter's point of view on the subject. As he told this writer, "While you're wondering what I want, I'm thinking, 'Why aren't you figuring out what I need?'"

Now you know why some of the Windsor altar servers came up with a name for these often-inscrutable behests, a name which might work for a late-night EWTN game show: *The Hrytsyk Request*. Can't you picture him as the clue-giver in that contestant's chair?