

Tridentine Community News

January 8, 2023 – Holy Family

CTV News Windsor Leads with St. Benedict's Solemn High Requiem Mass

CTV News Windsor thought St. Benedict's Solemn High Requiem Mass for Pope Benedict XVI on Tuesday, January 3 at St. Alphonsus Church was newsworthy enough to film. It was one of the lead stories on their 11:00 PM newscast that evening. The full newscast is here:

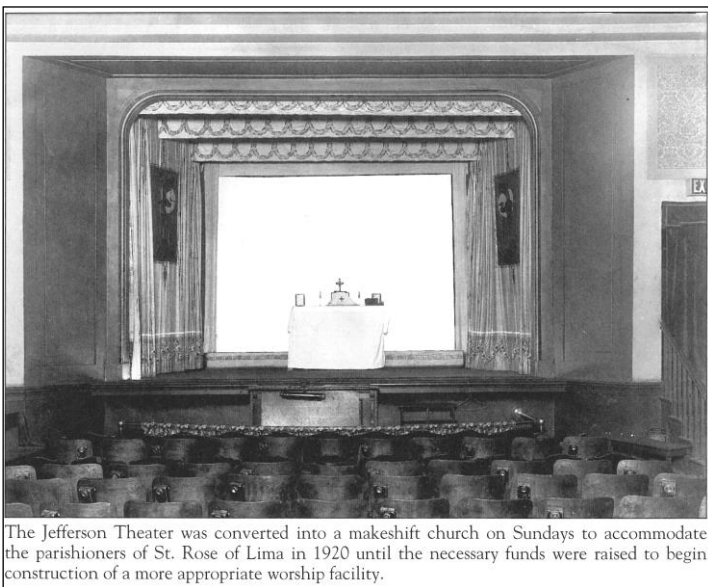
<https://windsor.ctvnews.ca/video?binId=1.1807102>



More Photos of Detroit's Catholic Golden Age

Our December 11, 2022 column contained a photo from the 2000 book *Archdiocese of Detroit* by former AOD archivist Roman Godzak. That book is a treasure trove of photos of Detroit's Catholic Golden Age, roughly from 1900-1960. Three additional photos from the book warrant a mention:

Much attention is given to the astounding pace of church building under Bishop Michael Gallagher. This was a time of rapid growth of the Catholic population, in part driven by immigration and migration to Detroit because of the auto industry. Tridentine Masses had to be held in makeshift places such as theatres until churches could be constructed.



The Jefferson Theater was converted into a makeshift church on Sundays to accommodate the parishioners of St. Rose of Lima in 1920 until the necessary funds were raised to begin construction of a more appropriate worship facility.

Seminary enrollment kept growing. The Archdiocese built St. John Provincial Seminary in Plymouth to accommodate the need for priests. The decorum of those attending the seminary's 1948 (Tridentine) dedication Mass is palpable in this photo.



Until the completion of the seminary chapel, the library was temporarily pressed into service for worship. Here, priests, monsignors, and visiting bishops fill the pews at the 1948 dedication Mass at St. John Seminary.

The book depicts thriving parishes with huge numbers of parishioners, and countless Catholic activities. One example is a Holy Name Parade down Woodward Avenue. Such a public expression of faith, especially for what might be seen as a relatively esoteric theological concept, would be unthinkable today.



St. Anthony Parish on Sheridan near Gratiot in Detroit was represented in the Holy Name Parade along Woodward Avenue with this float in October 1951.

Absent in this book are initiatives built around catchphrases. One gets the impression that Catholicism in this era was masculine, substantive, and unapologetic. The Church and the Archdiocese were too busy managing growth and a broad embrace of Catholicism to be distracted by anything diluted.

Tridentine Masses This Coming Week

Sun 01/15 10:00 AM: High Mass at *Old St. Mary's* (Second Sunday After Epiphany) – Celebrant: Fr. Cy Whitaker, SJ