

Tridentine Community News

October 29, 2023 – Christ the King

Gregorian Masses for the Dead

Have you ever thought about whether Masses will be offered for your soul after you pass away? To provide an extra level of assurance in case family and friends do not request them, your will can arrange for your estate to pay for Mass intentions for your soul. Tradition teaches us that a particular arrangement of Masses for the dead may be particularly effective, that of “Gregorian Masses”, which are Masses offered for a deceased soul for 30 consecutive days. The name derives from Pope St. Gregory the Great, who in a revelation was told by our Lord, “All souls in Purgatory, for whom thirty Masses are offered in your honor and without interruption, will immediately be saved however great may be their debt towards Me.”

In today’s Church, it’s not easy to find priests able to offer the same Mass intention for 30 straight days. One good option is to approach monasteries and certain religious orders where priests offer individual private Masses each day. Such communities also often celebrate the Tridentine Mass.

The following is an updated list of religious communities that welcome requests for Gregorian Masses. It supersedes the previous list provided in our March 20, 2016 column. The first listing is a significant new addition to the available options.

<p>To become a member of the Pious Union of St. Joseph</p> <p>First search your heart before making a promise to pray each day to St. Joseph for all those who will die that day. If you are able to make this promise in good faith, please fill out this form:</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>City/State/Zip: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I am already a member, use this address for Mass cards.</p> <p>Detach and send this completed form along with stipends and donations to:</p> <p>Pious Union of St. Joseph 953 E. Michigan Ave. Grass Lake MI 49240</p> <p>Gregorian Masses</p> <p>Tradition holds that our Lord spoke to St. Gregory and said: “My friend, I want to grant in your favor a privilege that will be unique. Each soul in purgatory, for whom thirty Masses are offered in your honor and without interruption, will immediately be saved however great may be their debt toward Me.” People today are still astonished that thirty Masses offered consecutively can obtain the grace of the release of that soul from purgatory.</p> <p>Gregorian Mass 30 Consecutive Masses</p> <p>For the Soul of: _____</p> <p>Date of Death: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Please send a Mass card.</p> <p>Mass Stipend \$300.00</p> <p>Contact the Pious Union if you have questions about Gregorian Masses.</p> <p>More Mass offerings are available on the reverse side of this form.</p>
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The Pious Union of St. Joseph, an apostolate of the Servants of Charity religious order, operates a chapel in Grass Lake, Michigan, in the Diocese of Lansing. They are a “Confraternity of Prayer for the Suffering and Dying” and invite requests for Gregorian Masses. While nothing is stated in their materials about offering the Extraordinary Form, at least two of their local priests, Fr. Joseph Rinaldo and Fr. Fortunato Turati, used to be celebrants of the Jackson, Michigan Tridentine Mass several years ago, so it may be worth asking whether they would be willing to celebrate Gregorian Masses in the EF. More information is available at: <https://piousunionofstjoseph.org/gregorian-mass-2/>

California’s St. Michael’s Abbey, a Norbertine monastery, offers a convenient way to request Mass intentions, up to and including Gregorian Masses, on their web site at: <https://stmichaelsabbey.com/mass-requests/>. Their priests offer both the Extraordinary and Ordinary Forms, so it may be possible to include a request that Masses be said in the EF.

The Miles Christi order of priests in South Lyon, Michigan no longer invites Gregorian Mass requests, and no longer offers Tridentine Masses.

Additional options for Gregorian Masses, all in the Ordinary Form, include:

The Capuchins’ Seraphic Mass Association:
<https://mymassrequest.org/Request-A-Mass/Masses-for-the-Deceased/Series-of-Gregorian-Masses>

The Vincentians’ Our Lady of Angels Association:
<https://www.ourladyofangels.net/gregorian-masses/>

The Franciscan Missions:
<https://give.franciscanmissions.org/gregorian-mass-request>

The National Shrine of the Divine Mercy:
<https://www.shrineofdivinemercury.org/mass-gregorian>

Plenary Indulgence Opportunities in November

It’s time for our annual reminder about Holy Mother Church’s generous granting of indulgences during the first week of November:

On November 2, the Feast of All Souls, a Plenary Indulgence, applicable only to the Souls in Purgatory, may be gained by praying one Our Father and one Creed in a church.

From November 1 – November 8, a Plenary Indulgence, applicable only to the Souls in Purgatory, may be gained each day by visiting a cemetery and praying for the dead, even if only mentally.

The usual conditions apply for all Plenary Indulgences: Confession within 20 days, reception of Holy Communion and prayer for the Holy Father’s intentions (traditionally one Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be) once per Plenary Indulgence sought, and freedom from attachment to sin. A maximum of one Plenary Indulgence may be gained per day.

Tridentine Masses This Coming Week

Wed. 11/01 12:00 Noon: High Mass at *Holy Family, Detroit* (All Saints)

Wed. 11/01 7:00 PM: High Mass at *St. Mary of Redford* (All Saints)

Wed. 11/01 7:00 PM: High Mass at *St. Thomas the Apostle, Ann Arbor* (All Saints)

Thu. 11/02: 6:00 PM: Two simultaneous Low Masses on the Side Altars; 7:00 PM: Solemn High Mass at the High Altar at *St. Benedict/St. Alphonsus, Windsor* (The Three Masses of All Souls) – Absolution at the Catafalque will follow the Solemn High Mass. Celebrants: Fr. Peter Hrytsyk and Fr. Steven Huber, C.S.B.

Thu. 11/02 7:00 PM: High Mass at *St. Thomas the Apostle, Ann Arbor* (All Souls) – Choir will sing Mozart’s Requiem in D Minor

Fri. 11/03 7:00 PM: High Requiem Mass at *Old St. Mary’s* (Daily Mass for the Dead) – Celebrant: Fr. Cy Whitaker, SJ. Choir will sing/debut the Requiem Mass by Wassim Sarweh. Devotions to the Sacred Heart before Mass. Reception in the parish hall follows.