

# Tridentine Community News

April 27, 2025 – Low Sunday

## *Detroit Archbishop Ends Parish Tridentine Masses*

Since this column's founding in 2006, we have striven to present positive news about the Traditional Latin Mass scene in metro Detroit and Windsor. Indeed, this has not been difficult to do, because over the years there have been way more advances, improvements, and positive developments here than negative ones. Most notably, this region has organically developed the largest number of Tridentine Masses of any major city in North America, with 41 Mass sites spread across the Archdiocese of Detroit and those neighboring parts of the Diocese of London, Ontario; the Diocese of Lansing; and the Diocese of Saginaw that arguably constitute part of greater Detroit. In the Archdiocese of Detroit proper, we have gone from one solitary TLM site in 2004 (St. Josaphat) to 28 sites today, an emphatic demonstration of success for traditional liturgy. The August 14, 2022 edition of this column listed all of the sites operating at that time:

<http://www.windsorlatinmass.org/wnnews/220814.pdf>

At present, however, we have the duty to inform you of a decision by the new Archbishop of Detroit, Edward Weisenburger, to cancel all Traditional Masses in the Archdiocese that are held at parish churches. His Excellency made this decision less than one month into his leadership of the Archdiocese, having first announced the policy at a priests' gathering on April 8, and then publishing the policy officially on April 16, Wednesday in Holy Week:

<https://www.aod.org/announcements-newsroom/newsroom/2025/april/update-on-traditionis-custodes-in-the-archdiocese-of-detroit>

To take the place of the parish Masses he will allow one TLM in a non-parish church or chapel in each of the four regions of the Archdiocese. The Institute of Christ the King will also be allowed to continue at St. Joseph Shrine. This means there will be a reduction from 28 current Mass sites in the Archdiocese down to 4 or 5. When we add in the nearby sites in the London and Lansing dioceses, we're back up at around 10 total options, still a fraction of the original 41.



Renowned historic churches that will have to discontinue their Tridentine Masses include Holy Family in Detroit, which has experienced an increase from 10 people on a Sunday to 100 since making most of their weekly Masses TLMs; Assumption Grotto; Old St. Mary's; and Sweetest Heart of Mary. Even the relatively remote Immaculate Conception, Lapeer [pictured], whose Sunday 12:00 Noon Mass fills the church, will have to end. Not only will this present

inconveniences to the faith lives of those attending these churches, the loss of financial revenue to the host parishes in some cases will be significant.

While it is true that *Traditionis Custodes* states that TLMs are not to be held in parish churches, the Vatican has set no restrictions on the number of non-parish TLM sites in a diocese. Thus, the requirement to have only one non-parish site per each of the four regions is a limitation set by the Archbishop on his own initiative.

Fortunately, the Archdiocese of Detroit has plenty of non-parish churches and chapels which would be viable sites for the Traditional Mass. In 2023 this column ran a multi-part series describing the numerous chapels in our region:

<http://www.windsorlatinmass.org/wnnews/230305.pdf>

<http://www.windsorlatinmass.org/wnnews/230312.pdf>

<http://www.windsorlatinmass.org/wnnews/230319.pdf>

<http://www.windsorlatinmass.org/wnnews/230326.pdf>

<http://www.windsorlatinmass.org/wnnews/230402.pdf>

In addition, churches which are no longer the primary worship site of a multi-church parish qualify as non-parish churches. Examples include St. Josaphat Church of Mother of Divine Mercy Parish and the St. Hugo Stone Chapel. More of those sorts of churches will become available as more parishes merge or close sites.

The final TLMs at parish churches will be held in June. Let us pray that the next Holy Father will replace *Traditionis Custodes* with a new set of regulations that once again permit freedom for the Traditional Mass to be offered in the parish churches where it belongs and has flourished.

There is no clarity yet on which Masses will be allowed to continue, although the Sunday 9:00 AM Oakland County Latin Mass Association at the Orchard Lake Shrine Chapel of St. John Paul II, and the Third Tuesday 6:00 PM Mass at the St. John Resort Chapel in Plymouth meet the new requirements for eligibility. And of course the granddaddy TLM community of them all, the St. Benedict Tridentine Catholic Community in Windsor, offers another nearby option, already in a non-parish church. Please support these efforts as our best options during this time.

Please also pray for the many local priest celebrants of the TLM, not to mention the thousands of laypeople, impacted by this announcement.

## *The Canon During an Interregnum*

When the Church is between Popes, as we are at present, the rubrics of the Traditional Mass prescribe that the clause referencing the Pope in the Roman Canon be skipped. Source: Fortescue, O'Connell, & Reid, *The Ceremonies of the Roman Rite Described*, 2009 edition.

## *Tridentine Masses This Coming Week*

**Fri. 05/02 7:00 PM:** High Mass at *Old St. Mary's* (St. Athanasius, Bishop & Doctor) – Celebrant: Fr. Thai Nguyen. Confessions and Devotions to the Sacred Heart precede Mass, and a reception follows in the Parish Center.