

Tridentine Community News

June 1, 2025 – Sunday After the Ascension

The Joshua Chorale to Sing at the June 6 First Friday Tridentine Mass at Old St. Mary's

When we got word a few months ago that the Joshua Chorale was going to be providing the music for the June 6 7:00 PM First Friday Mass at Old St. Mary's, we invited its director, Sarah Dudek, to write a column explaining the history and background of this choral group, some of whose members, including Sarah, are regular singers at those First Friday Masses. Note that at press time, it appears that the June 6 Mass will be the last Tridentine First Friday Mass to be held at Old St. Mary's.



When Joshua and the Israelites marched around the city of Jericho, they raised their voices, sounded their trumpets, and the city's walls came tumbling down. 2nd Chronicles tells of King Jehoshaphat placing the singing men on the front lines of his army, claiming the victory for the Lord. Joshua and Jehoshaphat both knew that a battle is fought in faith before deeds, claimed with speech before swords. The Joshua Chorale was named in honor of this principle, using music to proclaim God's truth to a suffering, broken, and secular world, breaking down the barriers that have kept people from encountering God and His Church.

The Joshua Chorale was founded in the fall of 2021, at a time in the pandemic when most choirs were dissolving, and when the Church was told not to sing. Structurally, the Joshua Chorale is merely a community chorus. However, its mission to use music to bring the beautiful and the sacred outside of the ordinary bounds of the church building has drawn a number of impressive vocalists from the ranks of Detroit's church music directors, university vocal students, and elite choral singers. All its members join in the



singular vision that God's Word, sung with love and skill, is not to be silenced or confined.

This vision has brought the Joshua Chorale into

unique and stunning venues. In the spring of 2022, they performed Mozart's *Vesperae Solennes de Confessore* in the Renaissance Center's Wintergarden, symbolically proclaiming a renaissance of choral music in Detroit in a post-pandemic world. That fall, the Chorale performed Mozart's Requiem in the rotunda at Holy Sepulchre [Cemetery] on All Souls Day, bringing attention and education around the Church's indulgences. The following spring, Joshua turned Detroit's Guardian Building [pictured], known as the cathedral of finance, into a sacred space to sing Rachmaninoff's ethereal and majestic All Night Vigil. The 2023-2024 season brought the performance of Morten Lauridsen's divinely poignant *Lux Aeterna* to Wayne State's glass and marble McGregor Memorial Center, and Leonard Bernstein's riveting Chichester Psalms to the historic Redford Theatre.



The Joshua Chorale's 2024-2025 season has introduced a new venue to the chorale: the internet. Partnering with several of Detroit's historic parishes, the Joshua Chorale has been recording in sacred spaces to create videos that share truth and beauty even beyond the confines of a singular event. As the videos are prepared and edited for later release, the Chorale has thanked these historic churches by singing a Mass or Vespers for the parishes. The Joshua Chorale sang an Advent Vespers at Old St. Mary's this past December, and is thanking the parish for their support by singing the First Friday Mass on June 6th at 7 p.m. The Mass Ordinary will be taken from Rheinberger's stunning Mass for double choir, with motets by Lottie and Stopford.

Forged out of the silence of the pandemic and trained to lay claim to the sacred in a secular society, the Chorale is now poised to sing potentially the last First Friday Tridentine Mass at Old St. Mary's for the foreseeable future. Holding firm to the belief that barriers are brought down in faith, in word, and in song, the Chorale is grateful to be a part of this long standing and precious Detroit tradition and honored to unite their voices in the most powerful form of prayer in heaven and on earth in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. We hope you join us on June 6th for this important evening, as we allow the beauty of God's saving action to transcend time and space, uniting us to God the Father and overcoming all earthly difficulties.

Tridentine Masses This Coming Week

Fri. 06/06 7:00 PM: High Mass at *Old St. Mary's* (Votive Mass of the Sacred Heart) – Celebrant: Fr. Joe Tuskiewicz. The Joshua Chorale will provide the music (see above). Confessions and Devotions to the Sacred Heart precede Mass, and a reception follows in the Parish Center.

Comments? Ideas for a future column? Please e-mail info@windsorlatinmass.org. Previous columns are available at www.windsorlatinmass.org.