

# Tridentine Community News

January 25, 2026 – Third Sunday After Epiphany

## Octaves Past and Present

An Octave is an eight day period during which a liturgical theme prevails throughout all of the days. The number of Octaves in the Church calendar has decreased over recent decades, with *eighteen* in the pre-1955 Missal, *three* in the 1962 Missal that diocesan Traditional Mass sites are currently required to use, and only *two* remaining in the Novus Ordo Mass. Many but not all have their own *Communicantes* paragraph in the Canon of the Mass.

Perhaps because there were so many of them, the pre-55 Octaves were assigned categories, from highest to lowest rank: Privileged Octaves are either (1): First Order, (2) Second Order, or (3) Third Order. Below them are (C) Common Octaves, and lastly (S) Simple Octaves, which are only characterized by a having an octave (eighth) day but no recognition during the middle of the octave.

Below is a list of the pre-55 Octaves with their pre-55 categories and their status today. We also indicate if there is a special *Communicantes* for the Feast Day only or for the entire Octave in the 1962 Missal:

### Christmas (3):

In the 1962 Missal? Y      In      the  
Novus Ordo? Y  
Special *Communicantes*? O

### Epiphany (2):

In the 1962 Missal? N      In      the  
Novus Ordo? N  
Special *Communicantes*? F

### Easter (1):

In the 1962 Missal? Y      In the Novus Ordo? Y  
Special *Communicantes*? O

### Ascension (3):

In the 1962 Missal? N      In the Novus Ordo? N  
Special *Communicantes*? F

### Pentecost (1):

In the 1962 Missal? Y      In the Novus Ordo? N  
Special *Communicantes*? O

### Corpus Christi (2):

In the 1962 Missal? N      In the Novus Ordo? N  
Special *Communicantes*? N

### Sacred Heart (3):

In the 1962 Missal? N      In the Novus Ordo? N  
Special *Communicantes*? N

### St. Joseph (C):

In the 1962 Missal? N      In the Novus Ordo? N  
Special *Communicantes*? N

### Nativity of St. John the Baptist (C):

In the 1962 Missal? N      In the Novus Ordo? N  
Special *Communicantes*? N

### St. Peter & Paul (C):

In the 1962 Missal? N      In the Novus Ordo? N  
Special *Communicantes*? N

### St. Lawrence (S):

In the 1962 Missal? N      In      the  
Novus Ordo? N  
Special *Communicantes*? N

### Assumption (C):

In the 1962 Missal? N      In      the  
Novus Ordo? N  
Special *Communicantes*? N

### Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (S):

In the 1962 Missal? N      In      the  
Novus Ordo? N  
Special *Communicantes*? N

### All Saints (C):

In the 1962 Missal? N      In      the  
Novus Ordo? N  
Special *Communicantes*? N

### Immaculate Conception (C):

In the 1962 Missal? N      In      the  
Novus Ordo? N  
Special *Communicantes*? N

### St. Stephen (S):

In the 1962 Missal? N      In      the  
Novus Ordo? N

Special *Communicantes*? N

### St. John the Evangelist (S):

In the 1962 Missal? N      In the Novus Ordo? N  
Special *Communicantes*? N

### Holy Innocents (S):

In the 1962 Missal? N      In the Novus Ordo? N  
Special *Communicantes*? N

## Tridentine Masses This Coming Week

Tue. 01/27 7:00 PM: High Mass at *St. Benedict/Holy Name of Mary, Windsor* (St. John Chrysostom, Bishop & Doctor)

