

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):

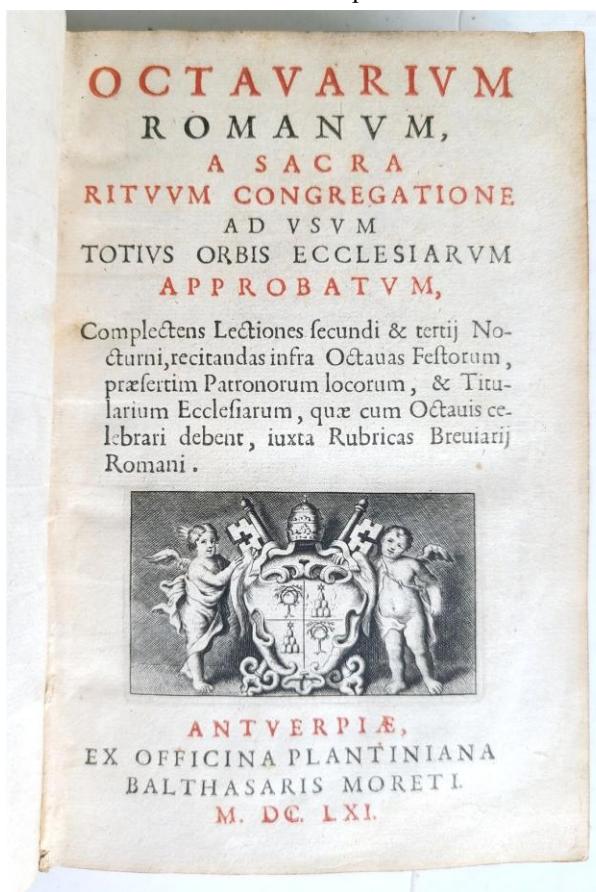
In the 1962 Missal? Y In the Novus Ordo? N
Special *Communicantes*? O

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

Ss. 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

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)