

Tridentine Community News

February 1, 2026 – Septuagésima Sunday

The Difference Between an Octave and a “Tide”

As a follow-up to last week’s column on Octaves, it’s worth mentioning that there is a difference between Octaves, which either formally do or do not exist in the Church calendar, and “tides” or former Octaves which linger in the calendar by custom.

Most notable among these are Epiphanytide and Ascensiontide. While the Octaves following the Feasts of Epiphany and the Ascension no longer exist in the 1962 Calendar, there still exist “tides” during those former Octaves. These are recognizable by the continuation of using the Preface of the Epiphany and the Preface of the Ascension during the former Octaves following those Feasts, as well as by the continuation of the prohibition of the Daily Mass for the Dead on Fourth Class Feasts in Epiphanytide. This is observable in the Fraternity of St. Peter’s annual Ordo for the Traditional Mass, which explains the rules and regulations over the course of the Church year.

Two Regional Traditional Mass Sites At Risk of Closing

Two of our regional Traditional Latin Mass sites may be in danger of closing:

The new site at St. Irene Church in Dundee, Michigan has low attendance, no choir, and few volunteers to help administer it. Unless those numbers increase, the site may be closed by the Archdiocese of Detroit. In retrospect, the location may simply be too remote, near the southern edge of the archdiocese, to interest many of the faithful. Most of the parish-based TLMs that were suppressed by Archbishop Weisenburger on July 1, 2025 were more centrally located; it may have been more helpful to establish sites at more centrally-located non-parish churches and chapels such as the St. John’s Resort Chapel in Plymouth or the Felician Sisters’ Motherhouse Chapel in Livonia.

The Saginaw TLM at Holy Family Church was one of our region’s success stories, with approximately 180 attending weekly, and a strong sense of community. Unfortunately an internal dispute has arisen in recent weeks, primarily concerned with building security in light of the tragedy at the Mormon church in Grand Blanc. The pastor, the Latin Mass members, and the Novus Ordo members could not come to agreement. The TLM was suspended for several weeks, and after it resumed, announcements were made that were off-putting to many parishioners. The choir, organist, and key organizers left, and only about one-quarter of the original attendees returned when the Mass resumed on January 18. It is important to note that neither *Traditionis Custodes* nor the Diocese of Saginaw played any part in this situation. Without new lay volunteers, however, it is difficult to imagine this TLM site surviving, a sad development for such a formerly thriving community in a beautiful historic church. Future Sunday TLMs will be held on an as-announced basis, with the next Mass set for today, February 1, at 3:00 PM.

Perhaps the lesson is for all TLM sites never to cease focusing on inviting and welcoming newcomers, and to make a firm commitment to a cooperative relationship with one’s host

organization, whether it be a parish, chapel, or other such entity. TLM attendees must exercise prudence in selecting which hills to die on.

If you know of individuals who could inject some life into these two sites by their presence and/or their volunteer efforts, by all means recommend that they visit those sites and offer their services to the priest in charge.

Historic Photo of Sacred Heart Seminary Chapel

Mosaic Magazine from Detroit’s Sacred Heart Major Seminary ran the following photo of the seminary’s chapel before its remodeling after Vatican II. Apparently pieces of the Communion Rail were used to construct the base of the current freestanding altar. The High Altar was removed but is apparently in storage at the seminary. The reredos behind the High Altar remains in place.

The Side Altars along the side aisles of the chapel remain in place and to this day are used by certain priest faculty members for their private Masses.



Tridentine Masses This Coming Week

Tue. 02/03 7:00 PM: Low Mass at *St. Benedict/Holy Name of Mary, Windsor* (St. Blase, Bishop & Martyr)

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