

Tridentine Community News

March 1, 2026 – Second Sunday in Lent

Spera in Deo: Liturgy at Hope College

By Walter Plymale

We are grateful that Hope College Freshman and occasional Oakland County Latin Mass Association attendee Walter Plymale has submitted four articles for this column, the first below.

Many of those on the east side of Michigan are probably vaguely aware of Hope College in Holland, Michigan. The college was founded in 1866 by ministers of the Reformed Church of America (RCA), and for much of its history had a close relationship with that denomination. Until 2024, all trustees of the college had to be RCA members and Hope's bylaws were subject to vote at the RCA's general synod. However, over the last ten years changing demographics have resulted in a decline in RCA members enrolling at Hope, and an increasing diversity of religious denominations represented at Hope.



Amongst this backdrop, the amount of Catholics attending Hope began to grow and now holds steady at about 18% of the student body. Inspired by this growth, in 2014, Dr. Jared Ortiz, a religion

professor, and Dr. Jack Mulder, a philosophy professor, founded the Saint Benedict Institute, which sought to address the intellectual and spiritual needs of the Catholic population. In 2017, the Saint Benedict Institute brought in Fr. Nicholas Monco OP, a Dominican Priest who serves as the campus' full time chaplain. Later in 2022, St. Anne's Oratory was consecrated by Bishop David Walkowiak of Grand Rapids as an on-campus chapel for daily Mass. Due to increasing attendance, Sunday Mass is celebrated in a nearby lecture hall. Mass is celebrated on campus six days a week, alongside Adoration, Confession, and other devotions, including sung Compline in the Dominican Rite. Monthly carpools to the Traditional Latin Mass in Grand Rapids are also held.

What sets liturgy at Hope College apart is that it is the only college in Michigan, private or public, which celebrates all of its Masses exclusively *ad orientem*. The Roman Canon is used at every Sunday Mass and the servers pray Psalm 42 before processing in. There is prominent use of Latin and Gregorian chant. In November, an enterprising student took it upon himself to chant the *Dies Irae* at the weekly Requiem Masses for the dead. In the Autumn of 2024, Fr. Monco celebrated three Dominican Rite Low Masses at the College, marking the first documented Dominican Rite Masses [pictured] held in the Diocese of Grand Rapids since the Second Vatican Council. One would be hard

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pressed to find such liturgies at most Catholic colleges, yet alone at a Reformed college, however at Hope College these things are a common occurrence. For those wishing to learn more, you can visit the website of the Saint Benedict Institute here: <https://www.saintbenedictinstitute.org> (Photo shared with permission of the St. Benedict Institute)

Recent Pontifical Solemn Masses in San Francisco and Lincoln

Over 600 faithful, some standing in the aisles and vestibule of the church, filled the National Shrine of St. Francis of Assisi in San Francisco on Friday, February 20, for a Pontifical Solemn Traditional Mass celebrated by Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone. This writer was asked to serve at the altar, and a priest from the Archdiocese of Detroit sat in choir. Two priests and a deacon requested training on the Tridentine Mass in upcoming weeks. There was immense respect for what has been accomplished in the metro Detroit TLM scene over the years. While it appears that San Francisco may have taken the crown from Detroit as North American TLM leader diocese for the time being, their growth has been in part based on replicating successful strategies first established in Detroit and Windsor. [Photos by Mark Wilson and Catholic San Francisco]



Just two days later, on Sunday, February 22, Bishop James Conley of the Diocese of Lincoln, Nebraska, celebrated a Pontifical Solemn Mass at St. Francis of Assisi Oratory in Lincoln, also for a packed church. Let us pray that these examples will inspire other bishops to offer Pontifical Traditional Masses themselves.

Tridentine Masses This Coming Week

Tue. 03/03 7:00 PM: Low Mass at *St. Benedict/Holy Name of Mary, Windsor* (Tuesday in the Second Week in Lent)