

Tridentine Community News

March 8, 2026 - Third Sunday in Lent

A Jesuit Gem: The Chapel of the North American Martyrs

By Walter Plymale

Local Catholics have probably heard of the University of Detroit Jesuit High School. The school itself is quite old, being founded in 1877 by Jesuits from Cleveland. Originally, the school was a component of the University of Detroit, which was founded the same year. The school's original building was located just off of Jefferson, next door to Sts. Peter and Paul. In 1931 the high school moved to its current location just off of Seven



Mile. Many Detroiters pass by U of D Jesuit daily or know an alumnus, but few know about the chapel contained within its walls. The Chapel of the North American Martyrs is the main chapel used by the high school. The chapel originally possessed a high altar, two side altars, and a communion rail. The tiling around the floor of the altar is Pewabic, with the altars being made of marble. The stained glass windows portray the lives of the North American Martyrs. The original has a sister chapel, Lansing Reilly Hall Chapel, located at U of D Mercy, a mile south of the high school. That chapel was featured in a March 5th, 2023 edition of this newsletter. Up until the 1960s, U of D Jesuit possessed the largest chapter of the Sodality of Mary, a devotional society for students dedicated to Our Lady. Bl. Fulton Sheen even visited U of D and spoke at a meeting of the Sodalities. However, in the 1970s it underwent an unfortunate wreckovation and the high altar was destroyed, save for the tabernacle, which was placed in storage. The pews were torn out and the altar rail removed. The chapel was then turned into a library, and the school was left without a chapel for much of the 1970s and 1980s.

However, in the 1990s the school restored the chapel. The Library was moved elsewhere. New pews were installed alongside carpeting and the tabernacle of the original high altar was restored. A thrust altar was placed in the center and now serves as the chapel's altar. Miraculously, the two side altars survived the wreckovation and restoration; they now sit unused. Two



murals were also painted above the side altars, depicting the life of St. Ignatius of Loyola. The chapel's vestry and sacristy were restored. Mass is offered for students and faculty of the high

school daily. Public access to the chapel is limited; the last notable public event held there was when the skull of St. Jean de Brebeuf visited the school in March of 2024 as part of a nationwide tour of the relics by the Jesuit vocations office.

The Tridentine Mass has not been celebrated in the chapel since the late 1960s, however the two side altars are in good condition. The thrust altar installed in the 1990s is mobile, allowing it to be placed in a location more suitable for celebration of the Tridentine Mass. Although the current ecclesial climate makes celebration of the Traditional Latin Mass here very difficult, we can pray that sometime soon, through the intercession of Sts. Jean de Brebeuf and Issac Jogues, the Tridentine Mass can once again be celebrated at the the Chapel of the North American Martyrs.

Las Vegas Embraces Catholic Tradition

During a recent trip to Las Vegas, it became apparent that the archdiocese there is slowly but surely adopting an increasing number of traditional practices. Cases in point: 1) The Sunday 2:00 PM TLM at the [Shrine of the Holy Redeemer](#) [pictured], the largest church in the archdiocese, continues to attract crowds. For at least the third year in a row, the Latin Mass community was invited to offer their Mass at Guardian Angel Cathedral as a special event, this year on March 1.



2) A Tuesday 12:10 PM Novus Ordo Mass at [Guardian Angel Cathedral](#), the archdiocese's main tourist church, was celebrated by an auxiliary bishop and was accompanied by an organist and a talented young female cantor, with the Propers and Ordinary in Latin and English Gregorian Chant. Just a few years ago, this would have been inconceivable.

3) A Wednesday 12:15 PM Novus Ordo Mass at historic [St. Joan of Arc Church](#) downtown was partially in Latin. Holy Communion was distributed at the Communion Rail.

Tridentine Masses This Coming Week

Tue. 03/10 7:00 PM: Low Mass at *St. Benedict/Holy Name of Mary, Windsor* (Tuesday in the Third Week in Lent)

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