

Tridentine Community News

March 22, 2026 – Passion Sunday

The Essential Catholic Library Part 1 of 2

By James Murphy

A guide for Catholics who desire to live the Faith as it has always been handed down

For Catholics who wish to live fully according to the traditional teachings and spiritual life of the Church, the home should contain more than crucifixes and sacramentals; it should also contain sound Catholic books. Holy books form the mind in truth, nourish the soul, and guide the faithful in prayer and virtue.

Throughout Catholic history, the faithful kept certain foundational works in their homes so that the Faith could be studied, prayed, and lived daily. The following books form the core of a truly Catholic library and should be found in every Catholic household.

1. The Douay–Rheims Bible

The Douay–Rheims Bible is the traditional English Catholic translation of Sacred Scripture. First translated from the Latin Vulgate by English Catholic scholars in exile during the Protestant persecutions, it was produced so that Catholics could have a faithful and doctrinally reliable translation of the Word of God.

Unlike many modern translations, the Douay–Rheims remains closely tied to the Latin Vulgate, the official Bible of the Church for centuries and the text used in the traditional Roman liturgy.

Owning and reading this Bible is essential because Sacred Scripture is the inspired Word of God. It is the primary source of divine revelation and the foundation upon which Catholic doctrine rests. Through Scripture, the faithful learn the history of salvation, the teachings of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and the moral law by which they must live.

A Catholic household without a Bible lacks the very book through which God has spoken to mankind.

2. The Catechism of the Council of Trent

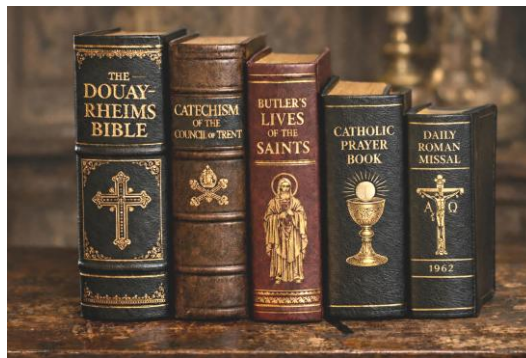
After the upheaval caused by the Protestant Reformation, the Council of Trent (1545–1563) produced one of the most authoritative summaries of Catholic doctrine ever written: the Catechism of the Council of Trent, also known as the Roman Catechism.

This catechism was prepared under the authority of the Church to ensure that the Catholic Faith would be taught clearly and accurately. For centuries it served as the primary doctrinal guide for priests and teachers of the Faith.

The catechism explains the Faith systematically through four major pillars:

- The Apostles' Creed (what Catholics believe)
- The Sacraments (how grace is received)
- The Ten Commandments (how Catholics must live)
- The Lord's Prayer (how Catholics should pray)

Every Catholic should own this catechism because it provides a clear and authoritative explanation of Catholic doctrine without ambiguity. In times of confusion, it remains a reliable guide to the perennial teachings of the Church.



3. The Daily Roman Missal

The Daily Roman Missal contains the texts of the Traditional Latin Mass, the Mass that nourished countless saints for over a millennium.

This book includes:

- The ordinary of the Mass
- The proper prayers for every day of the

liturgical year

- Scripture readings used in the traditional liturgy
- Devotions and prayers before and after Mass

Owning a missal allows Catholics to unite themselves more fully with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. By following the prayers and readings, the faithful participate more deeply in the liturgy and better understand the richness of the Church's worship.

The Mass is the center of Catholic life—the unbloody renewal of the Sacrifice of Calvary. Because of this, every Catholic should possess a missal so that the liturgy may be studied, loved, and prayed even outside the church.

Ed. note: A survey of hand missals was published in the April 8, 2012 edition of this column:

<http://www.windsorlatinmass.org/wtnews/120408.pdf>

Tridentine Masses This Coming Week

Tue. 03/24 7:00 PM: Low Mass at *St. Benedict/Holy Name of Mary, Windsor* (Tuesday in Passion Week)

Sun. 03/29 8:15 AM: High Mass at *OCLMA/Orchard Lake Shrine Chapel* (Palm Sunday) – Mass begins 45 minutes earlier than usual

Sun. 03/29 2:00 PM: High Mass at *St. Joseph Church, Port Huron* (Palm Sunday) – Special later Mass time today