

Tridentine Community News

March 29, 2026 – Palm Sunday

The Essential Catholic Library Part 2 of 2

By James Murphy

4. Lives of the Saints

The Lives of the Saints, such as those written by Fr. Alban Butler or similar traditional collections, are among the most inspiring works of Catholic literature.

These books recount the lives, struggles, virtues, and heroic sacrifices of the saints throughout the centuries. They show how ordinary men and women became holy by cooperating with the grace of God.

The saints provide living examples of the Gospel in action. They demonstrate:

- Courage in persecution
- Fidelity to Catholic doctrine
- Charity toward neighbor
- Total devotion to God

Reading the lives of the saints strengthens faith, encourages virtue, and reminds Catholics that holiness is attainable. The saints are not distant historical figures; they are members of the Church Triumphant who intercede for the faithful on earth.

5. A Traditional Catholic Prayer Book

Finally, every Catholic should possess a traditional prayer book. Such books typically contain:

- Morning and evening prayers
- Prayers before and after Mass
- Devotions to Our Lady
- Litanies
- The Rosary
- Examination of conscience
- Traditional Catholic devotions



Prayer is the lifeblood of the spiritual life. Without regular prayer, faith weakens and the soul becomes vulnerable to temptation.

A prayer book helps structure the daily spiritual life of a Catholic, guiding the faithful in praying with the Church and preserving devotions that have sanctified generations of Catholics.

Ed. note: Listings of prayer books were published in the November 6, 2011 and November 3, 2024 editions of this column:
<http://www.windsorlatinmass.org/wtnews/111106.pdf>
<http://www.windsorlatinmass.org/wtnews/241103.pdf>

Conclusion

A Catholic home should be a place where the Faith is both lived and learned. The following books form the foundation of a traditional Catholic library:

- The Douay–Rheims Bible — the Word of God
- The Catechism of the Council of Trent — the authoritative explanation of Catholic doctrine
- The Daily Roman Missal — the guide to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass
- Lives of the Saints — examples of holiness in action
- A Traditional Prayer Book — guidance for daily prayer

These books nourish the mind, strengthen the soul, and help Catholics remain rooted in the perennial teachings and spiritual life of the Church.

In an age when confusion often surrounds the Faith, the Catholic who fills his home with sound spiritual books equips himself and his family with the tools necessary to know, love, and serve God faithfully.

As Scripture reminds us:

“Stand fast; and hold the traditions which you have learned.”

— 2 Thessalonians 2:15

A Catholic library built upon these works is one small but powerful way of doing exactly that.

Tridentine Masses This Coming Week

Tue. 03/31 7:00 PM: Low Mass at *St. Benedict/Holy Name of Mary, Windsor* (Tuesday in Holy Week)

Wed. 04/01 7:00 PM: Tenebrae at *St. Thomas the Apostle, Ann Arbor*

Thu. 04/02 10:00 PM: Tenebrae at *St. Mary Student Parish, Ann Arbor*

Thu. 04/02 7:00 PM: Solemn High Mass at *St. Joseph Shrine* (Holy Thursday)

Fri. 04/03 3:00 PM: Good Friday Mass of the Presanctified at *St. Joseph Shrine*

Fri. 04/03 5:30 PM: Good Friday Service at *St. Benedict/Holy Name of Mary*

Fri. 04/03 7:00 PM: Tenebrae at *St. Mary, Manchester, MI*

Sat. 04/04 5:00 PM: Easter Vigil at *St. Joseph Shrine*

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