

Tridentine Community News

May 17, 2026 – Sunday After the Ascension

Farewell, Fr. Cy



In 2016, a mysterious stranger started attending the Oakland County Latin Mass Association's Sunday Masses, then located at the Academy of the Sacred Heart Chapel in Bloomfield Hills. He sat in the back and spoke to no one. After several weeks, someone noticed that this person appeared to be a priest, so a conversation was struck up with him. It turned out that this visitor was Fr. Cyril Whitaker, a Jesuit priest serving as Director of Spirituality at Detroit's Sacred Heart Major Seminary. Fr. Cy was enthralled by the Traditional Mass but didn't know where to start learning to celebrate it. He soon signed up for the Extraordinary Faith priest training program, and from that point forward he became a familiar face at metro Detroit TLM sites, including Orchard Lake; Old St. Mary's; Holy Family, Detroit; St. Anthony, Temperance; and St. Irene, Dundee. He was particularly known for his insightful and often passionately-delivered homilies.

Fr. Cy will be departing Sacred Heart Seminary for a new assignment at Minneapolis-St. Paul's St. Paul Seminary in June. His last Mass at the OCLMA/Orchard Lake Shrine Chapel will be next Sunday, May 24 at 9:00 AM.

Because Fr. Cy was one of the regular celebrants at Dundee, it is not clear if that Mass will be able to continue on a weekly basis without his assistance. If the schedule there changes, a future edition of this column will provide an update.

Priest Assignment Changes

Five priests of the Archdiocese of Detroit have been removed from their positions and, with one exception, have not yet been given new assignments:

Fr. Paul Ward, at Holy Family, Detroit through June 30

Fr. Michael Wilkes, former chaplain of St. John Hospital, Detroit

Fr. Michael Suhay

Fr. Steve Mateja, formerly at St. John Fisher, Auburn Hills, has been assigned to a part-time position in the chancery.

Fr. Mark Borkowski, formerly at Our Lady of the Scapular, Wyandotte

No reasons have been publicly given for these changes, however it is noteworthy that each of these priests is known for promoting traditional liturgical practices. Please pray that they receive fitting new assignments.

Historic Photo of St. Gregory Church

On March 7, 2026 the Facebook group *I Went to Catholic School in Metro Detroit* presented a collection of photos of St. Gregory Church and High School in Detroit from the 1962-63 school year, one of which is below, depicting a school Benediction service:



Tridentine Masses This Coming Week

Tue. 05/19 7:00 PM: Low Mass at *St. Benedict/Holy Name of Mary, Windsor* (St. Peter Celestine, Pope & Confessor)