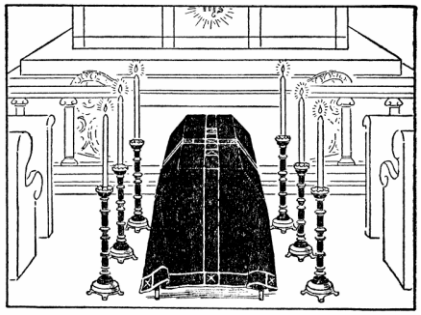
Tridentine Community News

November 1, 2026 – All Saints

The Requiem Mass

The Traditional Latin Mass provides many opportunities throughout the year for special Masses to be celebrated for the faithful departed. All of these take the form of a Requiem Mass, a slightly shortened form of the regular Mass, optionally followed by the ceremony of Absolution, the blessing of the body. The black-framed altar cards and the thin black altar missals you see, and the Grey Missals for the congregation are specially designed for the unique aspects of the Requiem Mass. These missals include the ceremonies before and after Mass.

The first and primary form of Requiem is the **Funeral Mass**. The ceremony begins with prayers and chants accompanying the formal reception of the body at the door of the church. Holy Mass follows, at the end of which is the ceremony of Absolution, which is conducted at the coffin if the body is present, or at a catafalque if the body is not present. A catafalque is a structure resembling a coffin that stands in for the deceased person. A black pall (cloth) covers the coffin or catafalque, and six candles surround it. Finally, there is the optional concluding blessing given at the gravesite or other place of final disposition of the body.



The ceremonies of the Funeral Mass were described in detail in our September 2, 2007 column, which is available on-line at the web site listed at the bottom of this page.

The **Masses of All Souls Day** are the second form of Requiem. The Church provides three separate sets of Mass Propers for All Souls Day and has long permitted priests to celebrate three Masses that day instead of the usual two. In previous years when we have had access to churches with Side Altars on All Souls Day, we have offered the traditional Three Masses of All Souls: the Second and Third Masses as Low Masses celebrated at the Side Altars, followed by the First Mass as a Solemn High Mass with Deacon and Subdeacon celebrated at the High Altar. Absolution at the Catafalque follows the Solemn High Mass.

The third form is the **Daily Mass for the Dead**, more commonly referred to as a Memorial Requiem Mass. The St. Benedict Tridentine Community at Holy Name of Mary Church in Windsor welcomes requests for the Daily Mass for the Dead on certain Tuesdays at 7:00 PM. The intention can be for one or multiple people, as there are Propers to accommodate either option. The Daily Mass for the Dead is permitted on weekday Ferias and Feasts of the Fourth Class outside of Christmastide; please consult a (Tridentine) Liturgical Calendar to see the dates on which these occur. Use the regular Mass intention request form and indicate that you wish a Requiem Mass. These will ordinarily be Low Masses, however you may request a High (chanted) Requiem Mass for the cost of singers; see Choir Director Wassim Sarweh for details.

The priest wears a black chasuble, somberly ornamented. Black is the liturgical color for everything except the ciborium veils, which should be white; the chalice pall, which should be white or violet; and the tabernacle veil, which should be violet. Our Lord is ever-living; our most penitential color, black, cannot be used in proximity to the Blessed Sacrament.

Mass proceeds with a few differences: As in Passiontide, Psalm 42 (*Júdica me*) is skipped; the Prayers at the Foot of the Altar go from the *Introíbo* directly into the *Confíteor*. The altar servers' liturgical kisses are omitted. The priest signs the missal instead of himself at the Introit. There is no *Glória*, as that joyful hymn would be out of place. Between the readings, the choir chants the best-known part of the Traditional Requiem Mass, the Sequence *Dies Iræ*, which begins:
"Day of wrath, O Day of mourning, Lo the world in ashes burning: Seer and Sibyl gave the warning."

The *Credo* and the *Glória Patri* at the *Lavábo* are omitted. Incense is not used until the Offertory, and in a Solemn High Mass the Subdeacon acts as the Thurifer during the Canon. At the *Agnus Dei*, "*dona eis réquiem*" (grant them rest) replaces "*miserére nobis*", and "*dona eis réquiem sempitérnam*" (grant them eternal rest) takes the place of "*dona nobis pacem*". The prayer for peace that follows the *Agnus Dei* is omitted, as is the Kiss of Peace in Solemn High Masses. The first of the priest's three prayers before Communion is omitted. At the end of Mass, "*Requiéscant in pace*" (May they rest in peace) takes the place of "*Ite, Missa est*". The Final Blessing is omitted.

If Absolution follows the Mass, the Last Gospel is omitted. The celebrant changes into a black cope and goes to the entrance to the sanctuary where the coffin or catafalque is placed. If the individual being memorialized is a priest, if the body is present, the head would be toward the sanctuary, facing the flock he lead. For non-priests, the feet are closest to the sanctuary, as the deceased person is facing his Lord on the altar. The Crucifer stands where the deceased's head would be. If the body is present, the celebrant stands where the deceased's feet would be and recites the Absolution *Non intres* ("Enter not into judgment with Thy servant, Lord...") The choir sings the responsory *Líbera me* ("Deliver me, Lord, from everlasting death in that awful day: When the heavens and the earth shall be shaken: When Thou shalt come to judge the world by fire."). The priest recites the *Kyrie* and *Pater Noster* while passing around the body twice, once sprinkling it with Holy Water, and once incensing it, then says a final prayer. The choir sings *In Paradísum* ("May the Angels lead you into paradise...") as the priest and sacred ministers exit.

Tridentine Masses This Coming Week

Mon. 11/02 6:00 PM: High Mass at *St. Matthew, Flint* (All Souls)
Mon. 11/02 7:00 PM: High Mass at *St. Benedict/Holy Name of Mary, Windsor* (All Souls)
Mon. 11/02: 8:00 AM Low Mass & 7:00 PM High Mass at *St. Joseph Shrine* (All Souls)
Tue. 11/03 7:00 PM: Low Requiem Mass at *St. Benedict/Holy Name of Mary, Windsor* (Daily Mass for the Dead)

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