

Tridentine Community News

December 2, 2007

The Tridentine Calendar

At the start of another Liturgical Year, it is appropriate to address the topic of the Extraordinary Form's calendar of feasts. With the addition of many newcomers to the congregations of St. Josaphat, St. Joseph, and Assumption-Windsor over the past year, it behooves us to take another look at how the Tridentine Calendar is structured, as it is quite different.

The Novus Ordo liturgical calendar consists of a three year (Year A, B, C) cycle of Sunday readings. All three of the Sunday readings change each year. On weekdays, there is a two year cycle (Year I, II) for the First Reading only; the Gospel remains the same. The calendar of feast days, however, does not change. In other words, August 10 is always the Feast of St. Lawrence, regardless of whether it is Year I or Year II. The Church did not double the number of feast days when it expanded the First Reading cycle.

In the Classic Form of the Mass, there is only a one-year cycle of readings, and there is no Second Reading on Sundays, only a First Reading and a Gospel. The First Reading is usually taken from an Epistle on Sundays. On weekdays it can come from the Old Testament. Some consider the additional readings in the Ordinary Form a blessing because it exposes the faithful to more of the Bible. A counter-argument can be made that people can barely remember a one-year cycle of readings, and it is better that they know a more limited set of readings well. We won't debate this here; the point to be made is simply that the calendars are different.

Not only are the readings different, the feast days themselves are often, but not always, different. For example, the Feast of St. Josaphat is November 12 in the Ordinary Form, and November 14 in the Extraordinary Form. Therefore, if you want to follow the Tridentine schedule of feasts, it helps to have a Tridentine wall calendar. Fortunately, we make that easy for you, as we are selling the Fraternity of St. Peter's beautiful calendars at cost after Mass.

Further information about the Tridentine Calendar may be found in the June 11, 2006 edition of this column, available on-line at the web address at the bottom of this page.

How to Follow the Weekday (Monday) Mass

Following Sunday Mass is easy – just take a weekly Latin/English Propers Handout on your way into church, and you will see what Propers and Readings have been scheduled for the day. It's trickier to determine what Propers will be used at St. Josaphat's Monday 7:00 PM Mass, as more options are possible on weekdays:

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

If the day is a Feast Day, we will celebrate that feast. If there is a choice of multiple feasts to be held on a given day – e.g.: November 13 is St. Didacus in the universal calendar, and St. Frances Xavier Cabrini only in the U.S. – we will announce prior to Mass which Mass will be said.

If the day is a Feria, a day without an assigned feast, it is unlikely that our celebrant will wish to repeat the default Mass of the previous Sunday. Rather, we are more likely to use one of the Votive, or elective, Masses. If the decision is made in sufficient time before Holy Mass begins, we will make an announcement as to which Mass it will be. When we know what Mass will be celebrated a week in advance, and when there is space, we will print the Monday feast name on the prior Sunday's Propers Handout.

Because there are no Propers handouts at the Monday Mass, we recommend that you bring a hand missal to help you follow the Mass. Even though the readings are read in English after they are read in Latin, a hand missal provides you with translations of the other Propers of the Holy Mass: the Introit, Gradual, Alleluia, Offertory, and Communion, each of which is its own gateway into the Holy Scriptures and helps you pray the Mass.

The Ordo

In the sacristy, we use a special form of the calendar called an Ordo. In addition to the usual information given in a wall calendar, an Ordo contains additional facts such as the liturgical color of the day, the Preface to be used, whether there is to be a Gloria and/or Credo, and whether there is to be a

Commemoration (additional Collect, Secret, and Postcommunion prayers). Most Ordos also contain extensive notes on the rubrics.

We employ the Fraternity of St. Peter's Ordo, as it is thoroughly detailed and is the de facto standard Ordo for North American Extraordinary Form Masses. If you are curious to see one, come to the sacristy after any Mass. The accompanying image is a page from this Ordo. You may also purchase one at www.fssp.com.

The First Extraordinary Form Wedding

Our prayers and best wishes go out to Jeanne Sheehan and Michael Dunne, who will be married on Saturday, December 8 (yes, the feast of the Immaculate Conception) at St. Joseph Church. This will be the first Extraordinary Form Nuptial Mass conducted in our region since 1970. Jeanne and Michael are members of St. Josaphat's Tridentine Community.

Readers in Windsor, don't be jealous: The first Extraordinary Form wedding at Assumption Church has been scheduled for November 2008.

December / Advent December 1 – 24							
December 8 (Immaculate Conception) is a holy day of obligation (see notes on p. 82).							
1. On Sundays of Advent, the Gloria is omitted. On ferias when the Mass of the preceding Sunday is said, the Alleluia and its verse are omitted. In churches where the faithful are accustomed to stand for the Collects and Postcommunion prayers at Mass, they should be instructed to kneel for these prayers on the ferias of Advent (not, however, on Sundays, feast days, or the Vigil of Christmas).							
2. Commemorations of the feria in Advent are privileged and must be made on feasts of Saints at every Mass as well as at Lauds and Vespers.							
3. On Sundays and ferias of Advent (except the Third Sunday), the altar may <i>not</i> be ornamented with flowers, and the organ is silent, except (if necessary) to sustain the choir.							
4. On the Third Sunday of Advent (<i>Gaudete</i>), rose vestments are preferred but violet vestments may be worn. Organ and flowers are permitted.							
5. In place of the Preface of the Blessed Trinity on Sunday and the Common Preface on weekdays, the Preface for Advent may be used (see page 66).							
6. From December 17 to December 23 inclusive, the antiphon for the <i>Magnificat</i> at Vespers is one of the "O" antiphons.							
7. From Saturday, December 2 to February 1 inclusive, the final antiphon of the Blessed Virgin Mary at Compline is <i>Alma Redemptoris</i> .							
Day	Dt	Cl	C	Gl+C	Pref	Commemoration	Vespers
Sat	1	Saturday of Our Lady or Immaculate Heart of Mary	4	W	Gl	BVM	1 st Vespers of 1 st Sunday of Advent
	3		3	R	Gl	BVM	
Season of Advent							
Sun	2	First Sunday of Advent	1	V	Cr	HTri "Adv	2 nd Vespers of 1 st Sunday of Advent
Mon	3	St. Francis Xavier Priest & Confessor	3	W	Gl	Com "Adv	
Missions		St. Francis Xavier, Confessor, Principal Patron	1	W	GlCr	Com "Adv "MSP	2 nd Vespers of St. Francis Xavier
Tue	4	St. Peter Chrysologus Bishop, Confessor & Doctor	3	W	Gl	Com "Adv	Feria, St. Barbara
Wed	5	Feria of Advent II	3	V		Com "Adv	St. Sabbas Prieos
Thu	6	St. Nicholas Bishop & Confessor or Jesus Christ the High Priest	3	W	Gl	Com "Adv Com	Feria Feria, St. Nicholas
Fri	7	St. Ambrose Bishop, Confessor, & Doctor or Sacred Heart of Jesus	3	W	Gl	Com "Adv SH "Adv	Feria Feria, St. Ambrose 1 st Vespers of the Immaculate Conception