

Tridentine Community News

December 23, 2007

Christmas Tridentine Mass Schedule

There will be a Christmas Eve Midnight Orchestral Mass at St. Joseph Church; a 9:30 AM Christmas Day Solemn Missa Cantata at St. Josaphat; and a 2:00 PM Solemn Missa Cantata at Assumption-Windsor. There will be special choral music at all three Masses; the Midnight Mass will be Mozart's Spatzenmesse.

Christmas Day Mass Propers

The Tridentine calendar has a number of Masses for the Christmas period. The feast celebrated on December 24 (during the day) is the Vigil of Christmas. We celebrated that feast in 2006, because December 24 fell on a Sunday, displacing the usual Fourth Sunday of Advent.

On Christmas Eve, or more specifically, December 25 at midnight, the Church celebrates the First Mass of Christmas Day. Note that the Roman Missal does not actually have a "Midnight Mass"; this Mass is actually entitled "In Nocte" (at night). Midnight is the earliest that such a Mass may be held, thus derives the tradition of the Midnight Mass.

The Second Mass of Christmas is the "Mass At Dawn." This Mass is not held in our region, because the earliest Tridentine Mass around, St. Josaphat's 9:30 AM Mass, is too late to be considered "at dawn."

The Third Mass of Christmas is the "Mass During the Day." This is the Mass celebrated at St. Josaphat and Assumption-Windsor.

All of these Masses have different Propers; there is no overlap between them. Like the multiple Masses of All Souls Day, this is a sign of the significance which Holy Mother Church assigns this feast.

It is interesting to note that like the Mass of Easter Sunday, the Christmas Day Masses are not particularly lengthy. The Masses of Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Holy Saturday, Pentecost Sunday, and Corpus Christi are far more elaborate.

Extraordinary Form Makes the Cover of U.S. News

In further proof that our Holy Father's Motu Proprio, *Summorum Pontificum*, is having a noticeable effect on the Church, U.S. News & World Report ran a cover photo and story about the Tridentine Mass this week. The picture was taken at Washington, DC's St. Mary, Mother of God, a.k.a. Old St. Mary's, a church we have discussed in a previous column.

The article addressed the interest in traditional liturgy among a variety of denominations. We have certainly seen this in our region; for instance, St. John's Episcopal (Anglican) Church across from the Fox Theatre has been attracting a growing

congregation because of its dedication to solemn liturgy and sacred music.

Tridentine Mass Resource Page

In the aftermath of the Motu Proprio, a number of organizations have put together web sites to help people obtain missals, tutorials, and supplies for the Tridentine Mass. We would like to draw your attention to one that stands out from the pack: Chicago's St. John Cantius Parish has put together a single page listing many key supplies, including some never before available. See: <http://www.cantius.org/webstore/tridentine-resources-for-the-faithful.html>.

No News Is...No News

In response to some questions we have been receiving: We are still awaiting a decision from parish authorities at Assumption-Windsor about using the church for a weekday Tridentine Mass. Please be patient as we work through the proper channels.

The St. Josaphat Organ Project is still awaiting the identification of a suitable instrument. Only a few appropriate organs have appeared on the used market. They have so far been either overpriced or quickly purchased by wealthier parishes. We believe that the right combination of circumstances will congeal. Fortunately, the existing organ is still serviceable, thus we are under no particular time pressure. Keep in mind that this is likely a \$100,000 - \$200,000 project, thus special fundraising will be required. Your participation will be essential to making this project come to fruition.

A Word of Thanks

If you are a regular reader of this column, you are either a glutton for punishment or you have an above-average interest in the Sacred Liturgy. Many of you drive a long way to attend the Extraordinary Form Mass, and some of you put in many hours during the week volunteering to support our Masses in some way. It is that kind of dedication that is playing an active role in the growing interest in the Tridentine Mass. The beauty and significance of the music and ceremonies of this Mass are gaining an appeal among people of all ages, and are most emphatically not serving strictly a nostalgic purpose. You can spend a lifetime learning about the riches contained within the Tridentine Mass. In 2007, with the issuance of his Motu Proprio, Pope Benedict XVI provided the ultimate validation of our interests and efforts.

The Parish Council of St. Josaphat Church and the members of the board of the Windsor Tridentine Mass Association at Assumption Church would like to thank you for your support of the Extraordinary Form of the Mass. We wish you a blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with many graces.

