

Tridentine Community News

November 24, 2024 – Last Sunday After Pentecost

Tridentine Travelogue *Toronto Part 1 of 2: The Toronto Oratory*

It has long surprised this writer that the one city that most Catholics on both sides of the Detroit River seem to visit more than any other is not Chicago, not New York, not Orlando, but... Toronto. This is, of course, especially pronounced among residents of Windsor, who find themselves traveling to Toronto for business, personal, and medical reasons. So it's worth examining... what is the liturgical scene like in Toronto?

Much like St. John Cantius dominates the liturgical scene in Chicago, like St. Agnes does in Minneapolis-St. Paul, and, indeed, like the London Oratory does in London, England, the Toronto Oratory of St. Philip Neri is ground zero for the Tridentine Mass in Canada's largest city.

The Toronto Oratory administers two parishes, Holy Family and St. Vincent de Paul. Both offer the Traditional Latin Mass: St. Vincent once per week (Sunday 9:30 AM Low Mass), and Holy Family daily (Monday-Friday 11:30 AM Low Mass, Saturday 8:30 AM Low Mass, Sunday 11:00 AM Solemn High Mass).



Holy Family [pictured] is a rather small church, similar in size to or possibly slightly smaller than St. Alphonsus in Windsor. It is rather stark and devoid of much religious imagery. The altar is freestanding. The tabernacle is kept behind a gate, similar to a Byzantine church's iconostasis. Holy Family is located next to a sketchy neighborhood, but the campus is immaculately maintained and includes an elementary school. Parking is not easy; one must park along the street, as there does not appear to be a parking lot. However, streetcars serve the neighborhood, so public transit may actually be a better option for getting there.

Holy Family, like the Oratorian churches in England, is known for its sacred music program, multiple choirs, and regular concerts. Vespers [in the Ordinary Form] is offered on Sundays at 5:00 PM, accompanied by music in Latin.

11:00 a.m. (Usus Antiquior) Solemn High Mass Resumed 4th Sunday after Epiphany

Asperges me, Domine

Introit: *Dicit Dominus*

Kyrie & Gloria: *Missa L'homme Armé a4* (Palestrina)

Gradual: *Liberasti nos*

Alleluia: *De profundis*

Credo: I

Offertory: *De profundis*

Exaltabo Te, Domine (Orlandus Lassus)

Translation: *I will magnify you, O Lord, because you have sustained me and have not let my enemies triumph over me: Lord, I cried to you and you healed me. O Lord, you have brought forth my soul from hell; you have saved me from them that go down into the pit. (Psalm 30:1-3)*

Sanctus & Agnus: *Missa L'homme Armé a4* (Palestrina)

Communion: *Amen dico vobis*

Ascendente Jesu (Giaches de Wert)

Translation: *When Jesus had boarded the boat, his disciples followed him. And behold a great windstorm arose on the sea, so great that the boat was being swamped by the waves. And he was asleep. And his disciples went to him and awoke him, saying: Lord, save us, we are perishing! And Jesus said to them: Why are you afraid, you of little faith? Then he rose and commanded the wind and sea, and there was a great calm. (Matthew 8:23-27)*

Postlude: *Allegro moderato e serioso, from Sonata No. 1*
(Felix Mendelssohn)

The Oratory also operates St. Philip's Seminary, perhaps best known for training the seminarians of the expansive St. Michael's Abbey in Orange County, California. The seminarians are often seen assisting at the two Oratory parishes.

Longer term members of St. Benedict Tridentine Community may recall that one of the Oratory priests, Fr. Thomas Trottier, had family in Windsor and would occasionally celebrate Masses for us during his visits home. The founder of the Oratory, the late liturgical scholar and author Fr. Jonathan Robinson, celebrated St. Benedict's 20th Anniversary Mass in 2011 at Assumption Church.

Toronto is also blessed to have several other locations where the Traditional Mass is offered. We invite readers who have visited one or more of the other sites to submit a report on them, which we will be happy to publish.