

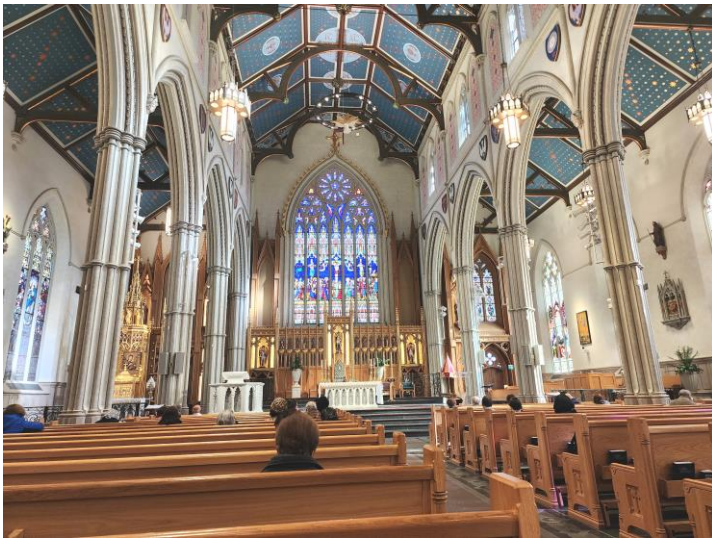
Tridentine Community News

December 1, 2024 – First Sunday of Advent

Tridentine Travelogue: Toronto Part 2 of 2: St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica & Choir School

This column has many times mentioned the glorious, world-class sacred music program offered by the St. Paul Choir School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. While that boys' choir is undoubtedly the most famous in North America, there are two other choir schools that also stand out: In Salt Lake City, Utah the Cathedral of the Madeline has its own choir school, and in Toronto St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica also has a choir school. All three of these choir schools normally sing for conservative Novus Ordo Masses that include extensive Gregorian Chant and sacred polyphony. You can listen to all three of them on YouTube videos.

Since our current series of columns focuses on Toronto, today we'll address that city's cathedral and its choir school.



Located in central downtown Toronto, St. Michael's Cathedral offers music at many of its Masses, including weekday Masses. This writer attended a noon Mass on Saturday, November 9, 2024 at which there was an organist and a marvelously talented cantor. The Entrance Antiphon and Communion Antiphon were chanted in Latin, and hymns were competently sung. The cantor deftly handled his duties without drawing attention to himself. You can watch a video of that Mass and cantor here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MQ3HhzHN3AQ>

The choir school only sings at the cathedral on Saturday afternoons, Sundays, and major Holy Days. That is a marked difference from Boston's St. Paul Choir School, which sings at one Mass every weekday. While Boston's occasionally sings for Tridentine Masses, Toronto's does not. Overall, the sound of the St. Michael's Choir School is not as entrancing as that of Boston's, nor is the organ playing. Nonetheless they are well worth a visit if you have not experienced a choir school Mass elsewhere before. A video of a Choir School Mass on Sunday, November 10, 2024 is here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2cq6AxxUJ4M>

Read more about the choir school at: <https://smcs.on.ca/>

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

Franciscans of the Holy Spirit Leave St. Mary of Redford

Founded as an offshoot of the Franciscan Friars Third Order Regular (TOR), the Franciscan Friars of the Holy Spirit are based in the Diocese of Phoenix, Arizona, where they serve at parishes and chapels on Native American Reservations. They became a familiar fixture in Detroit when they started sending their seminarians to Detroit's Sacred Heart Seminary. It was during those years that their

formation director, Fr. Athanasius Fornwalt, based here, stumbled upon a First Friday Tridentine Mass at Old St. Mary's and decided he had to learn the Traditional Liturgy [photo of the friars learning the TLM at St. Alphonsus



Church, Windsor in 2018]. Soon he and his friars were found around town, primarily celebrating Solemn High Masses because the friars made for excellent Deacons and Subdeacons.

The Archdiocese of Detroit then gave St. Mary of Redford Parish to the Franciscans. Once Detroit's largest parish, St. Mary's had shrunk to a tiny parish membership as the neighborhood fell into hard times. This was a perfect challenge for the Franciscans, who rejuvenated the parish both materially with their construction skills and spiritually with a more reverent Novus Ordo and regular Tridentine Masses added to the schedule.

Fast forward to a year or so ago, when the new Bishop of Phoenix decided to found a seminary in Phoenix. He no longer needed to send his seminarians out of town to other seminaries. The friars at St. Mary of Redford were thus required to return to Phoenix, and Fr. Athanasius had a decision to make: Return with them, or remain in Detroit at the parish that had become his adopted home? Fortunately for us, he chose the latter option and is now pursuing incardination as a diocesan priest in Detroit. And that means the Tridentine Masses will continue in Redford.

Tridentine Masses This Coming Week

Fri. 12/06 7:00 PM: High Mass at *Old St. Mary's* (St. Nicholas, Bishop & Confessor) – Celebrant: Fr. Athanasius Fornwalt. Confessions and Devotions to the Sacred Heart before Mass. Reception in the Parish Center afterwards.