

Tridentine Community News

February 2, 2025 – Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Solemn High Anniversary Mass of Fr. Michael Suhy at Sweetest Heart of Mary on February 10

Fr. Michael Suhy has arranged to offer a special Solemn High Mass marking the 20th Anniversary of his ordination to the sacred priesthood on Monday, February 10, the Feast of St. Scholastica, at 7:00 PM at Sweetest Heart of Mary Church in Detroit. Music and altar servers will be provided by members of Windsor's St. Benedict Tridentine Community and the Oakland County Latin Mass Association.

There is a Facebook event page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/589263137309734/>



The Encouraging Renaissance of Traditional Practices

Every once in a while it's good to take a step back and reflect on some of the good things that have happened in the Church in recent years. Catholic social media is so full of discouraging news that it's easy to overlook how much better things are in general than they were 30-40 years ago.

For example, in the 1980s it was unheard of that anything would be sung in Latin at a typical Novus Ordo Mass. Nowadays it is not unusual at all. In fact it is not uncommon to hear a Mass XVIII Sanctus or Agnus Dei sung even at weekday Masses at St. Aloysius, Detroit; St. Vincent de Paul, Pontiac; and countless other churches locally and globally.

So what changed? Arguably credit must go to EWTN, which broadcasts a daily Novus Ordo Mass which is largely in Latin, often with sung Latin parts. EWTN rightly maintains that with a global audience, Latin is the best language to use to unite us as Catholics. And Mass XVIII [Agnus Dei XVIII pictured] is often the setting chosen, which explains why that (simple) setting is now known by heart by so many.

Fast forward to 2025, and it's worth mentioning that a few more traditional practices have become common:

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A musical score for the Agnus Dei prayer. It consists of four staves of music with Latin lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "A -gnus De- i, *qui tol-lis peccá-ta mundi: mi-se-ré-re no-bis. Agnus De- i, *qui tol-lis peccá-ta mundi: mi-se-ré-re no-bis. Agnus De- i, *qui tol-lis peccá-ta mundi: do-na no-bis pa-cem." The notation includes a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a common time signature. There are repeat signs and a "XII. s." marking at the top right.

First, the Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel is heard at many parishes, especially after weekday Masses. Part of the Leonine Prayers said after Tridentine Low Masses, the Prayer to St. Michael is a remarkably orthodox invocation that can help remind the faithful that the Holy Mass is serious business. Even if the priest does not initiate the recitation of this prayer after Mass, often a member of the congregation will. As the Traditional Mass becomes more prevalent and mainstream, the faithful become reacquainted with this custom and see the value of it, helping to spread it to Ordinary Form Mass sites.

Second, Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament were rare, indeed, in the 1980s, but these days they have become so common that one even sees Benediction before or after certain weekday Masses in many parishes. Often O Salutaris and/or Tantum Ergo are sung in Latin.

Third, there are signs of hope musically as Latin motets, traditional hymns, and chanted antiphons come back into use at many parishes. In the 1980s one rarely heard an Entrance Antiphon or Communion Antiphon read or sung, but they are actually used more often than they are omitted in 2025. Parishes such as the National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica in Royal Oak, Michigan, which never would have done such a thing in the 80s, now chant Latin antiphons at some of their Masses.

Part of the reason for the renaissance of traditional music is because young priests are more aware of the musical patrimony of the Church. Another reason is the growth of support and training programs for sacred music, such as the Church Music Association of America's Sacred Music Colloquia and Canticle's Chant Camps. There's simply more momentum to promote and train traditional chant and polyphony than modern selections.

Tridentine Masses This Coming Week

Fri. 02/07 7:00 PM: High Mass at *Old St. Mary's* (St. Romuald, Abbot) – Celebrant: Fr. David Bechill. Confessions and Devotions to the Sacred Heart before Mass. Blessing of Objects and Reception after Mass.