

The Extraordinary Form of the Mass

Beginning this Sunday, an additional Mass option will be available to worshippers each Lord's Day at St. Joseph's: the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite will be celebrated at 1:00 p.m. every Sunday. This liturgy is unfamiliar to many of our parishioners, so some explanation is in order. With this bulletin, we begin a brief catechetical series on the Extraordinary Form, highlighting some of its unique features and explaining its place in Catholic liturgy today.

This version of the Eucharistic liturgy has gone by many names. Most commonly, it is referred to as the "Tridentine Mass" (after the Council of Trent [1545-1563] which called for its publication). It is also called the "Mass of St. Pius V" (after the pope who promulgated it in 1570), the "Traditional Latin Mass", and the "Missa Antiquior" (the Old Mass). The book which is used for its celebration is the *Missale Romanum, 1962* because the last edition, after undergoing many minor changes over the centuries, was published in that year under the authority of Pope John XXIII.

The Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) called for a renewal of the Roman Liturgy, opening the door to an extensive revision of the Missal and other books used in worship. This new form of the Rite (often called the "Novus Ordo Missæ") was published in 1969 and, in its English translation, is the form of the Mass most American Catholics are familiar with today.

Although the previous form was never officially suppressed, it was almost completely eclipsed by the new form. However, there always remained a significant minority of clergy and lay faithful who loved the old Mass and who labored and suffered to keep it alive. Church authorities permitted its celebration in restricted and isolated circumstances, but some groups and individuals lamentably broke unity with the Church at large in order to gain access to the ancient forms of worship.

Finally, on July 7, 2007 Pope Benedict XVI published his Apostolic Letter, *Summorum Pontificum*, in which he declared that the Roman Rite exists in two equal and legitimate forms: the "Ordinary Form" (using the Missal of 1969), and the "Extraordinary Form" (using the Missal of 1962). Any priest can freely celebrate either form privately; and, if it is requested by a group of the faithful, the Extraordinary Form may be celebrated publicly at the discretion of the local pastor.

This is how the Extraordinary Form has come to Spearfish. A number of Catholics in the Northern Hills have been traveling to Rapid City every Sunday for the Tridentine Mass offered at Immaculate Conception Chapel in the Cathedral Parish. These folks have asked their pastor, Fr. Tim Hoag, to provide the Extraordinary Form locally, and he has done so by bringing Fr. Chris Hathaway from Rapid City on Sunday afternoons only once a month. Our new Associate Pastor, Fr. Timothy Castor, has been trained to celebrate the Extraordinary Form and has been saying this Mass privately since September 2007. One reason Bishop Cupich assigned Fr. Timothy to our parish is because of his experience with the Latin Mass. Now we are able to meet the pastoral needs of these brothers and sisters of ours who have been making quite a sacrifice each week to worship in the form to which they feel attached. Also, now we are able to introduce a new generation to some of the riches of our liturgical heritage—the Mass which produced and nurtured saints for many centuries.

Next week: What it means to have one Rite in two Forms.