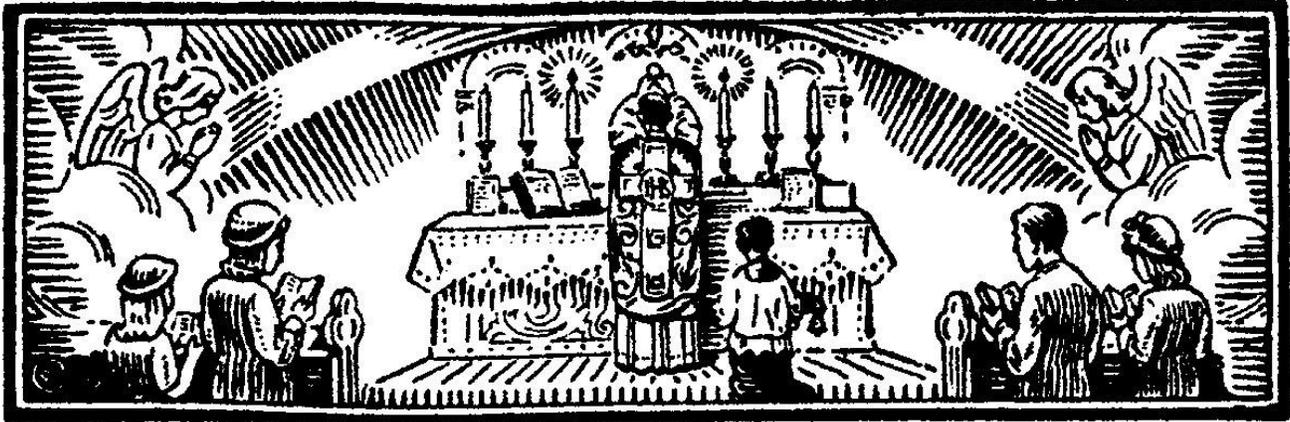


## THE MISSA CANTATA IN THE ANCIENT FORM OF THE ROMAN RITE



As we embrace the Joy of Tradition, the Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul now regularly celebrates a *Missa Cantata*, a sung Mass, in the ancient form of the Roman Rite. The *Missa Cantata* uses Latin, the universal language of the Church. After centuries of use among the early Christians in Rome, this ancient form of the Roman Rite was codified towards the end of the 6th century by Pope St. Gregory the Great. It would remain the common and normative form of the Mass for nearly 1500 years afterwards. The introduction of the New Order of Mass 50 years ago did not mean this Mass had been done away with! In fact, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI said, “What earlier generations held as sacred, remains sacred and great for us too.” And further, “It behooves all of us to preserve the riches which have developed in the Church’s faith and prayer, and to give them their proper place.”

In a *Missa Cantata*, the priest chants the Scriptures and prayers. The assembly sings the responses. The *schola cantorum* (“school of singers”) sings the chants proper to the day and may offer additional sacred music for meditation. The Ordinary parts of the Mass (*Kyrie, Gloria, Credo, Sanctus, and Agnus Dei*) are led by the *schola cantorum* in either Gregorian chant or a choral arrangement. If these parts are chanted, the congregation is invited to join in singing.

Though this Mass is wrapped in mystery and uses unfamiliar language, we invite each and every one of you to experience the beauty and sacredness of this ancient form of the Most Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, which is so important to our Catholic history and tradition. This is the Mass that underlies, instructs, and informs the Ordinary Form of the Roman Rite that most Catholics experience today. It may take a little effort to grow comfortable with it. However, it is an opportunity to experience the tradition, music, and mystery of our Faith.

*The basilica’s first celebration of the ancient form Missa Cantata was on Christmas Day, 2014. It is now celebrated on the fourth Sunday of each month at 5:00 p.m. English and Spanish language materials are available for you to follow along. After Mass, you are invited to a parish potluck in the Varallo Hall.*



**THE BASILICA OF STS. PETER AND PAUL**

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