



19 January 2023

The Commemoration of Ss. Marius, Martha, Audifax, and Abachum, Martyrs, and
that of St. Canute, King, Martyr

2022 Year in Review and Forthcoming Events

Dear Friends of the Arlington Latin Mass Society:

It has been a year of joy and sorrows. The Arlington Latin Mass Society was founded after the decrees from the Diocese of Arlington (on July 29, 2022) and Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. (on July 22, 2022) were issued, severely restricting the celebration of the traditional Latin Mass and forbidding other sacraments in the Extraordinary Form.

In the face of these harsh decrees, we responded by organizing weekly Rosary Rallies each Saturday at 10 AM to pray for an end to the restrictions. These Rosary Rallies have been a [powerful force](#) in raising awareness and building community.

As a natural outgrowth of the Rosary Rallies, we planned and executed the extraordinarily successful [National Summorum Pontificum Pilgrimage on September 17, 2022](#). A group of 300 Catholics marched between St. Thomas More Cathedral in Arlington, Virginia, and St. Matthew Cathedral in Washington, D.C.—a two hour walk. We carried beautiful Catholic banners, flags, and processional crosses, chanted the rosary, and sang Marian hymns. It felt like a great spiritual army moving through Arlington and Washington, spreading the truth of Christ and His grace into the world. The pilgrimage came together in a very short period of time, and it was only by the intercession of the Holy Ghost and the help of so many great friends that it was a tremendous success. It boosted awareness of the Latin Mass and the unjust restrictions on it, garnering extensive media coverage from [Newsmax](#), [LifeSite](#), [Breitbart](#), the [National Catholic Register](#), [OnePeterFive](#), [Catholic Arena](#), [Rorate Caeli](#), [MessaInLatino.it](#), [Latin Mass Knights](#), and the [Society of St. Hugh Cluny](#). We also had generous assistance from the [Coalition for Canceled Priests](#) and an excellent video montage from [Kevin S. Ceigersmidt](#).



After the pilgrimage, thanks to our Vice President Matthew Penza, we launched the [Arlington Latin Mass Society website](#), which lists Latin Mass times not just for the [Diocese of Arlington](#) and the [Archdiocese of Washington, D.C.](#), but also our neighboring dioceses of Richmond, Baltimore, Wheeling-Charleston, West Virginia., and Wilmington, Delaware. This has become sadly necessary thanks to the decrees from the Dicastary of Divine Worship and the dioceses forbidding the advertisement of Latin Mass times.

We have also launched the ALMS Fellowship, which plans and organizes pilgrimages, talks, and other events related to traditional Catholicism. Already, we have organized First Saturday walking pilgrimages as we prepare to send a group to march in the Chartres Pentecost Pilgrimage from Paris to Chartres in France this May. On December 18, we held the first installation of the ALMS Speaker Series, with Renata Grzan Wiczorek leading a sold-out guided meditation on sacred art of the National Gallery of Art.

We are not going to let the momentum die. We have many events coming up this year.

- ▶ The National *Summorum Pontificum* Pilgrimage will continue as a semi-annual event until these restrictions are lifted. The next *Summorum* Pilgrimage will take place on Saturday, March 25, 2023—the Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. **Mark your calendars!**
- ▶ The weekly Rosary Rallies continue each Saturday outside the Nunciature at 10 AM.
- ▶ Our First Saturday pilgrimages continue. On February 4, a group will be hiking at the Manassas Battlefield Park, preceded by Low Mass at 7:30 AM at Renaissance Montessori School in Nokesville, Virginia.
- ▶ On Sunday, January 29, we will be hosting a Day of Worship with the Canons Regular of the New Jerusalem in Charles Town, West Virginia, including Solemn Mass and the Divine Office in the Extraordinary Form.
- ▶ Our Speakers Series will continue, with many great speakers lined up.



- ▶ We will continue to collaborate with the [Northern Virginia Divine Office Society](#) and local parishes to expand access to the traditional Divine Office.

At a time when the Catholic Church is in a state of sad decline, with plummeting Mass attendance, infant baptisms, and marriages, the traditional Mass has flourished. It draws Catholics of all ages, including many young people, large families, converts, and reverts.

After the decree of the late Pope Benedict XVI in his 2007 *Summorum Pontificum*, the Extraordinary Form enjoyed great growth and success in both Arlington and Washington, D.C. It was regularly celebrated in 21 locations in the Arlington diocese and six in the Washington archdiocese. Now, that has been reduced to only eight in Arlington, five of which have been relocated out of the parish churches. In the Washington archdiocese, there are now only three locations for the traditional Latin Mass, only on Sundays, and not on Easter, Christmas, Pentecost, holy days of obligation, or during the Sacred Triduum.

We know both from statistics and our own personal experience just how many people are falling away from the Church. And we know how important traditional Latin Mass has been in nurturing and sustaining our own Catholic faith.

In addition, we have seen how, in Arlington and Washington, the growth of the traditional Roman Rite led to the reverent and beautiful celebration of the Ordinary Form of the Mass. We saw how parishes which included the celebration of the Extraordinary Form saw their parish life enriched.

In short, *Summorum Pontificum* has been a smashing success at revitalizing the Church in Arlington and Washington. Pope Benedict's prophetic vision for the renewal of the Catholic liturgy and revival of the Church is taking place before our very eyes. It is now up to us to carry forward this success in the face of restrictions—lifted by his memory and the intercession of the saints in heaven.

If our experience in the past year is any indication, we are more than up for the task.



This year, we expect to receive legal status as a 501(c)(3) religious and charitable entity, which will allow us to fundraise more easily. In addition to planning pilgrimages and lectures, we hope to provide resources for young priests to learn the Latin Mass and contribute financially to its continued reverent celebration in the Arlington and Washington dioceses.

We are also troubled by the lack of options for sacraments other than Mass in the Extraordinary Form—including baptisms, confirmations and weddings—and will continue to work to ensure that those desiring sacraments in the traditional Roman Rite can obtain them. If you have been affected by the ban on traditional sacraments, please contact us at info@latinmassarlington.org.

You can see the biographies of our board members and leadership [here](#). We will also be forming the ALMS Advisory Council to allow for greater input of our supporters in advancing our mission.

Due to the restrictions, we have been forced to come together more closely as a community. It has been a blessing in disguise. As I [noted](#) in my speech at the first *Summorum* Pilgrimage, “*Traditionis Custodes*, and these decrees, have done what hundreds of synodal listening sessions and ecumenical councils could not—they have activated the laity. They have emboldened us to leave the quiet of the pews and venture into the street, to proclaim what Popes and tradition and the Church teach to be true—that ‘[what earlier generations held as sacred, remains sacred and great for us too, and it cannot be all of a sudden entirely forbidden or even considered harmful.](#)’”

Throughout the ages, the Church has been sustained by the efforts of the laity in proclaiming the Word and fostering true devotion. So too in our age. Let us embrace our mission with joy and thanksgiving.

If you wish to contribute to our mission, you may do so [here](#).

Laudetur Jesus Christus!

Noah B. Peters
President, Arlington Latin Mass Society