

MASS INTENTION POLICY

One in Faith Area Catholic Community

Parish of Saint Mary

Effective June 21, 2026

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is the greatest prayer of the Church. For this reason, the long-standing custom of joining the celebration of a Mass to a particular prayerful intention is carried out so that the faithful may be united with Christ, sharing in the saving work of the divine Victim—who, by His unbloody immolation, is offered to the Father in the Eucharistic Sacrifice.

Mindful of this solemn and sacred gesture, and the Faithful's trust in the assurance of grace, the following policy is established to ensure fairness, pastoral care, and faithful adherence to the universal law of the Catholic Church concerning Mass intentions.

Mass Intention Policy:

(The discipline governing Mass offerings is articulated in Canons 945–958 of the 1983 Code of Canon Law and guides this policy.)

- Only one stipend intention may be scheduled per Mass (Can. 948).
- Due to the limited availability of Masses celebrated within our parish, each household may schedule only one (1) in-parish Mass intention per calendar year (July 1 – June 30). Additional Mass intention requests may be requested. These would be directed to diocesan-approved missions or retired priests. The parish office can assist you in coordinating these Mass intention requests.
- The donor's individual intention may include the names of up to four individuals. If more than four individuals are to be remembered, the intention may be listed more generally (e.g. *Living and Deceased Members of the N. Family*).
- While the donor's individual intention may include the names of multiple persons, separate stipend offerings for different intentions may not be combined into a single Mass by the same priest.
- A Mass intention may not contradict Catholic moral doctrine.
- While no fee may be exacted for the celebration of a Mass intention, a customary Mass offering (stipend) of \$10.00 per Mass intention is requested.

- One Mass every weekend and Holy Day of Obligation (vigil or Sunday/Holy Day) is offered for the People of the Parish (*Pro Populo*), as required by Canon Law (Can. 534 §1).
- The parish will make every effort to honor the requested date and time of a Mass intention. Requests will be scheduled as close as possible to the preferred date, based on availability and liturgical norms.
- Mass intentions must be fulfilled within one year of the request (Can. 953). A priest may not accept more Mass offerings than he can satisfy within one year.
- If a Mass cannot be scheduled for celebration within the parish within one year, the intention and stipend will be forwarded to diocesan-approved missions or retired priests. These offerings support missionary activity and retired clergy while ensuring canonical requirements are fulfilled.
- If a Mass with an accepted intention cannot be celebrated as scheduled due to a funeral, diocesan directive, severe weather, priest illness, or other unforeseen circumstance, the intention will be forwarded to diocesan-approved missions or retired priests, and every reasonable effort shall be made to notify the person, who requested the Mass, of the change. Every received intention will be celebrated somewhere.
- In exceptional pastoral circumstances (e.g., recent death, sudden illness, regional tragedy, or other urgent need), the pastor or his delegate may give special scheduling consideration, again with every reasonable effort to notify the requester when changes occur.
- Per the pastor's request, priority will be given on or near the anniversary day of the death of a parishioner to celebrate the Mass intention for them (General Instruction of the Roman Missal, 381).

We are grateful for your understanding, patience, and cooperation. For questions or to schedule a Mass intention, please contact the parish office.