

MASS INTENTION GUIDELINES

Shrine of Our Lady of Miracles

It is an ancient and noble practice to pray for the living and the dead at Mass. The greatest and most powerful prayer we have is the Mass, since the fruits of the Mass are the very fruits of Jesus' redemption made present to us. Therefore, so many of us request a Mass intention for our loved ones. In our parish there are many requests for scheduling Mass intentions.

Universal Church discipline as contained in canons 945 – 958 of the 1983 Code of Canon Law strictly regulates the offerings made for the celebration of Mass. Canon Law requires that only one intention be taken per Mass; though there is an allowance for offering a Mass with multiple intentions on a limited basis (i.e., All Souls Day would be an example). However, for the past few years our parish has been taking multiple intentions for each public Mass; a practice that was undoubtedly put in place to help fulfill the many intention requests received in our office. Though I inherited this practice when I became your pastor, ultimately, I also have the responsibility to guide it back toward the norm of canon law. The following policies are now being implemented in order to accommodate the numerous Mass requests in a reasonable and fair manner.

- The Mass Intention book for January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023 is now open. We will accept one “announced” intention per public Mass, which will be published in the bulletin and read out loud during the Universal Prayers (prayers of the faithful).
- A maximum of six (6) Announced intentions per year from any one individual may be scheduled at the parish with no more than three (3) scheduled for a weekend Mass. This limit is provided to give the opportunity for all parishioners to schedule a Mass intention for their loved ones and to accommodate recently deceased individuals.
- We will accept an unlimited number of intentions for the Masses celebrated on the First Friday and First Saturday of each month.
- I cannot accept more Mass intentions than I can fulfill within one year's time. I can accept more Mass intentions that would be sent to missionary or retired priests. These would not be celebrated in the parish. But they would be a source of support for the priests who receive them and would be celebrated in a timelier fashion. I cannot accept the “Gregorian Legation Masses” in the parish, but the office does have information where such requests can be made.
- Requests will be honored in the order in which they are received at the Parish Office. Every effort will be made to fulfill the requested date, time, and language whenever possible. If the requested date is not available, the next closest date and time will be scheduled.
- The schedule of Masses is subject to change due to my other obligations in the diocese, illness, schedule changes, etc. If a Mass with a requested intention must be changed, the intention will be rescheduled to the next available date.
- A \$10 stipend for each Mass intention is suggested by diocesan policy; but the donor may offer whatever they are able. The offering should be made at the time of the request.

Guidelines for Mass Intentions

A Mass intention may be requested for the following: a deceased loved one; a living person who is sick or suffering; a living person who is celebrating a birthday, anniversary, or other special moment in their life; in thanksgiving to God; in thanksgiving for the prayerful intercession of a patron Saint; or for a private prayer intention (so long as the intention does not contradict Church teaching).

Since the purpose of publishing the intention in the Bulletin is to notify the family and friends of the intention, we suggest the omission of middle initials, titles, etc. Each intention is limited to either two names or one group. Please indicate if the person for whom the Mass is requested is living or deceased.

Mass intentions may be requested for Sundays, most Holy Days and weekdays throughout the year.

Mass intentions cannot be scheduled for Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil, All Souls Day or Christmas Eve/Day. One Mass every Sunday and on Holy Days must be scheduled by the pastor for the intentions of our parishioners known as *Pro Populo* (For the People) as required by Canon Law.

Masses intentions may be requested by calling the parish office at (209)854-0015 or via email at office.olmshrine@gmail.org.

I thank you for your understanding in these changes and your generous cooperation. Know that you and your intentions are constantly in my prayers.