

# ST. PAUL PARISH MASS INTENTION PROCEDURES

All Mass Intentions are scheduled through the Parish Office.

The parish is required to have a record of Mass Intentions. We record Mass Intentions on a calendar, in a binder and also report them on the bulletin if they are scheduled at least a week in advance. Receipts are given to those who would like to provide a stipend, which constitutes another written record of the Mass Intentions.

**Stipends, or donations given for a Mass Intention, are not required to schedule a Mass Intention.** Instead, it is a practice that is encouraged as a sacrificial offering to support the church.

Stipends are applied to our parish's general account, which helps pay church expenses such as utilities, repairs, supplies and wages.

Mass Intention stipends at St. Paul the Apostle Parish tend to be \$10-\$15 if you are wondering how much is usually donated. However, there is no set price for a Mass Intention, and people are allowed to give according to their own judgment. In fact, Canon Law strictly prohibits the insinuation of buying and selling, trading, or the like procedures within the Church, including Mass Intention procedures.

Mass Intentions will be scheduled on a "first come, first serve basis." Since we currently have 3 weekend Masses within the parish, 2 Masses may have intentions and 1 Mass must be a *pro populo* Mass. Once 2 Mass Intentions have been scheduled for the weekend, the remaining Mass must remain a *pro populo* Mass.

To reschedule, contact the parish office. If Mass is cancelled, the parish office will call to offer rescheduling.

## MASS INTENTIONS & CANON LAW

### THE OFFERING GIVEN FOR THE CELEBRATION OF MASS

**Can. 945 §1.** In accord with the approved practice of the Church, any priest celebrating or concelebrating is permitted to receive an offering to apply the Mass for a specific intention.

**§2.** It is recommended earnestly to priests that they celebrate Mass for the intention of the Christian faithful, especially the needy, even if they have not received an offering.

**Can. 946** The Christian faithful who give an offering to apply the Mass for their intention contribute to the good of the Church and by that offering share its concern to support its ministers and works.

**Can. 947** Any appearance of trafficking or trading is to be excluded entirely from the offering for Masses.

**Can. 948** Separate Masses are to be applied for the intentions of those for whom a single offering, although small, has been given and accepted.

**Can. 949** A person obliged to celebrate and apply Mass for the intention of those who gave an offering is bound by the obligation even if the offerings received have been lost through no fault of his own.

**Can. 950** If a sum of money is offered for the application of Masses without an indication of the number of Masses to be celebrated, the number is to be computed on the basis of the offering established in the place where the donor resides, unless the intention of the donor must be presumed legitimately to have been different.

**Can. 951 §1.** A priest who celebrates several Masses on the same day can apply each to the intention for which the offering was given, but subject to the rule that, except on Christmas, he is to keep the offering for only one Mass and transfer the others to the purposes prescribed by the ordinary, while allowing for some recompense by reason of an extrinsic title.

§2. A priest who concelebrates a second Mass on the same day cannot accept an offering for it under any title.

**Can. 952 §1.** It is for the provincial council or a meeting of the bishops of the province to define by decree for the entire province the offering to be given for the celebration and application of Mass, and a priest is not permitted to seek a larger sum. Nevertheless, he is permitted to accept for the application of a Mass a voluntary offering which is larger or even smaller than the one defined.

§2. Where there is no such decree, the custom in force in the diocese is to be observed.

§3. Members of all religious institutes must also observe the same decree or local custom mentioned in §§1 and 2.

**Can. 953** No one is permitted to accept more offerings for Masses to be applied by himself than he can satisfy within a year.

**Can. 954** If in certain churches or oratories more Masses are asked to be celebrated than can be celebrated there, it is permitted for them to be celebrated elsewhere unless the donors have expressly indicated a contrary intention.

**Can. 955 §1.** A person who intends to entrust to others the celebration of Masses to be applied is to entrust their celebration as soon as possible to priests acceptable to him, provided that he is certain that they are above suspicion.

He must transfer the entire offering received unless it is certain that the excess over the sum fixed in the diocese was given for him personally. He is also obliged to see to the celebration of the Masses until he learns that the obligation has been accepted and the offering received.

§2. The time within which Masses must be celebrated begins on the day the priest who is to celebrate them received them unless it is otherwise evident.

§3. Those who entrust to others Masses to be celebrated are to record in a book without delay both the Masses which they received and those which they transferred to others, as well as their offerings.

§4. Every priest must note accurately the Masses which he accepted to celebrate and those which he has satisfied.

**Can. 956** Each and every administrator of pious causes or those obliged in any way to see to the celebration of Masses, whether clerics or laity, are to hand over to their ordinaries according to the method defined by the latter the Mass obligations which have not been satisfied within a year.

**Can. 957** The duty and right of exercising vigilance that Mass obligations are fulfilled belong to the local ordinary in churches of secular clergy and to the superiors in churches of religious institutes or societies of apostolic life.

**Can. 958 §1.** The pastor and the rector of a church or other pious place which regularly receives offerings for Masses are to have a special book in which they note accurately the number of Masses to be celebrated, the intention, the offering given, and their celebration.

§2. The ordinary is obliged to examine these books each year either personally or through others.