



Policies for Mass Intentions and the Universal Prayer

Effective September 2021

A Mass Intention is made by a parishioner who wishes to have a priest offer the Sacrifice of the Mass on behalf of a loved one, most commonly to benefit the soul of one who has died, but sometimes in thanksgiving or to mark a special occasion, such as an anniversary. Only the priest may offer a Mass for a special intention, and only one intention is allowed per Mass.

The Universal Prayer, (also known as Prayer of the Faithful) which includes prayers for the recently sick and deceased members of our parish community and their loved ones, are prayers that the faithful people offer to God within the context of the Mass as an exercise of their baptismal priesthood.

Guidelines for Mass Intentions

Mass Intentions must be requested by using the Mass Intention Request Envelope located in the commons at the Information Desk or in the parish office. Once the request is received in the office, a staff member will call to schedule the Mass for the next available day and time requested. There are many requests for Masses to be offered for loved ones resulting in a longer waiting time for available Masses. Your patience and understanding are greatly appreciated as we work with you to schedule the next available day and time. Parishioners are allowed to schedule up to 6 months in advance. Due to the high volume of requests for Mass intentions, there will be a **limit of two (2) Mass Intentions per 6 months**. Canon Law states that only one Mass intention may be offered by the priest per Mass. Under the Province of Baltimore, the Diocese of Richmond has established that the suggested **minimum offering amount for a Mass intention is \$10**.

Guidelines for the Universal Prayer (*Prayer of the Faithful*)

Prayer for the Deceased

The names of the members of our parish community or family who have died within the past week will be placed in the Universal Prayer at all weekend Mass. Those wishing to remember a loved one for a longer period of time, including the 40th day and one year anniversaries, may write the names in the Book of Remembrance located in the Holy Spirit Chapel. All names in the Book of Remembrance are prayed for at all Masses.

Prayer for the Sick

Those who have **recently** taken ill, are currently hospitalized, or will be having surgery within the week may be placed in the Universal prayer at all weekend Mass. Those wishing to remember loved ones with long term illnesses, chronic illnesses, or for other reasons may write their names in the Book of located in the Holy Spirit Chapel. All names in the Book of Intentions are prayed for by the entire parish community at all Masses.

Out of respect for personal privacy, any requests for names to be added to the Universal Prayer (*sick and/or deceased*) can only be requested by family members.