

## **MASS INTENTION POLICY FOR ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH AND ST. SEBASTIAN PARISH**

Offering Mass for a *particular intention* has been a way of remembering special people and special intentions within the Church for centuries. We try to honor requests for Mass intentions to the best of our ability and according to the *Code of Canon Law* for the universal Catholic Church.

**We are finding several factors that affect scheduling intentions for Mass here:**

1. The large number of requests for special dates (i.e. special dates related to the person, Christmas, Easter, etc.) versus the limited number of Masses celebrated in our two parishes.
2. Our desire to especially remember those who have most recently died.
3. The over-loading of the parish schedule so there is no room on the schedule.
4. The need to follow the *Code of Canon Law* which states that we *must* offer Mass for the scheduled intention *within one year's time (Canon 953)*.

**Therefore, we have set these guidelines for the scheduling Masses intentions:**

5. We can schedule a maximum of 5 Masses per year for any one intention (Two weekends and three weekdays).
6. There can be no multiple Mass intentions for a Mass.
7. We can accept Mass intentions up to 6 months in advance.
8. We will accept a Mass intention a year in advance for the 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary of a death of a loved one.

**We are reminded by the Eucharistic Prayers that every Mass is for all of us and our loved ones who have died, as we are all part of the communion of saints.**

**All Mass Intentions that have been scheduled at this point will remain on the Mass schedule.**

**Mass Intentions may also be given to retired priests of our diocese through the parish office.**

**We appreciate your understanding of this policy as we try to serve the spiritual needs of our parishioners.**

November 2013