



Mass Intentions

Faithful Departed—Question

How can we pray for the dead throughout the year?

We commemorate the faithful departed on November 2nd each year. However, we can and should continue to pray for the dead. Our growth in Christian perfection takes a long time. At the time of our death, many of us might not be saints yet. But God, in His mercy, allows for those who love Him to experience purification after death. Our word for that state is Purgatory. It's the antechamber of heaven, so to speak. We know we're getting in the house, but we're not quite ready to go all the way in. There's rain to shake off our coats and dirt that's clogging our shoes.

Here on earth, we can pray for the souls in Purgatory. One way is to request that your parish offer a Mass for the intention of a specific loved one. We can also remember the departed in our daily prayers. Just as we have special intentions for family and friends here on earth, we can pray for those who have died. It's also a good act of Christian charity to pray for the forgotten, those who have no one else to pray for them. God knows who they are!

What Is a Mass Intention?

A Mass intention is a specific petition for which the Mass is offered. Mass intentions can be requested on behalf of another living person—for example, the healing of someone who is sick or to commemorate a wedding anniversary. However, Mass intentions are most commonly offered in remembrance of a person who has died.

Offering Mass Intentions for Deceased Loved Ones

It may seem counterintuitive to offer a Mass intention for a person who has died, as their time on earth is finished. However, the practice of offering Mass intentions for the deceased relates to the Catholic belief in purgatory.

As Catholics, we believe souls who die in a state of sin go through a purification process before entering heaven. We offer Masses for our deceased loved ones to aid them in their journeys to heaven. We pray with hope that the graces imparted by the Mass usher them further towards eternity with God.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states: "From the beginning, the Church has honored the memory of the dead and offered prayers in suffrage for them, above all the **Eucharistic sacrifice**, so that, thus purified, they may attain the beatific vision of God" (CCC 1032).

The graces that come with having a Mass said for a special intention are immeasurable. The Mass unites the Church on earth to the Church in heaven. The intentions of the Mass are lifted by the Body of Christ in its entirety.

These graces are especially important for the dead, as they can no longer pray for themselves. Pope Francis said that offering the celebration of the Eucharist for the dead "is the best spiritual help that we can give to their souls, particularly to the most abandoned ones." <https://stories.svdmissions.org/the-mission-post/understanding-the-grace-that-comes-with-a-mass-intention>

How to Request a Mass Intention

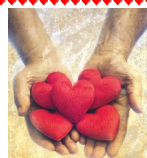
Come in, email, or call the church office with your requests for weekend or daily Masses. The suggested stipend at St. John's is \$5.00. The graces acquired by having a Mass said for a special intention are beyond earthly comprehension. The Mass is the greatest prayer the Body of Christ can offer to God and therefore the most powerful means to help others and ourselves gain eternity with him.



The Annual St. Nicholas Breakfast will be held the First Sunday of Advent! Join us after the 8:30 Mass on Sunday December 3rd in the Parish Hall for a pancake and sausage breakfast hosted by the Knights. Your freewill donation helps to support our faith formation program. **St. Nick will be there too!**

Silver Spoons Senior Potluck

Come join the fun on Dec. 7th, the first Thursday of the month, in the parish hall at 11:45. For our entertainment, bring a **White Elephant** gift for a grab bag exchange. *A White Elephant is something you no longer want, laying around your house worth \$10 or less.* A new gag gift is ok, too, if you prefer. Participation is not required, but we hope you will attend!



#GIVINGTUESDAY

Be the ONE this Giving Tuesday

It only takes ONE gift to make a big impact! Giving Tuesday is a global day of giving and unity on Tuesday, Nov. 28. For Giving Tuesday 2023, St. John's would like you to consider a gift for the church. Your offering not only helps to sustain

the day to day workings of the church, but also supports our Adult and youth faith formation programs as well as our community through the ministries of the Works of Mercy Team, Respect Life Committee, and Grief Ministry.

Scan the QR code or visit our website to make a contribution on Giving Tuesday.



Need some folding chairs?

St. John's is cleaning house.

We have several dozen old metal folding chairs that we would like to give away. The chairs are located outside, downstairs by the lower level double doors on the Northside of the church. You are welcome to drive around back and take what you need. We would love to clear them out before the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Freewill donations accepted too!

CLOSED

Reminder: The Parish office will be closed Thanksgiving Day and the Friday after Thanksgiving. Thank you!

Saturday retreats

Join us at Emmaus House for one of the new Saturday retreats scheduled. In December we will offer two retreats beginning with Lectio Divina with Father Dan Krettek on Saturday, Dec. 2. On Saturday, Dec. 9 April Young will facilitate a Blue Christmas Retreat, offered for anyone who has experienced loss, difficulty, major life change, or anything else that makes this Christmas "blue." Check out these and more offerings at www.TheEmmausHouse.org.

Respect Life Committee

November is National Adoption Awareness Month, when we highlight the gift of adoption. Please refer to our website for links to the following resources available to assist you in supporting and praying for all whose lives are touched by adoption:

An Adoption Love Story

Accompanying Expectant Mothers Considering Adoption

Novena to St. Joseph: For Those on the Path of Adoption

More information on activities of our committee may be found at: www.stjohnsadel.org/respect-life-committee



3 Day Silent Directed Retreat

Come away to the quiet and be present to what God wants to offer you. Creighton University Retreat Center, located one hour east of Omaha in Griswold, IA is offering 3 Day Silent Directed Retreats at the times listed below. Retreats begin 6 p.m. supper the first day and end at 3 p.m. the last day. The cost is \$375 for room, meals and one-on-one spiritual direction sessions. Register at creighton.edu/retreatcenter/scheduleofretreats or scan code: Choose one from these available dates:

- Thurs-Sun Jan 18-21, 2024
- Thurs-Sun Mar 21-24, 2024
- Thurs-Sun May 2-5, 2024
- Sun-Wed July 14-17, 2024



Catholic Youth Camp \$175.00 credits available through St. John's. Each week our Children's Collection at Mass is dedicated a special fund to help our families send their children to Catholic Youth Camp at the St. Thomas More Center in Panora. CYC is an opportunity for students entering 3rd-12th grade to be immersed in the beauty of the Catholic faith and grow in faith, build friendships and create memories. IF your family is registered at our parish and would like to receive a \$175.00 credit toward your child's CYC fee, Call Angela in the office BEFORE you register. She will give you a special code to be used at the time of registration. Registration begins Saturday, November 11th at noon. You must have the code to get the credit.



Bulletin deadlines are moved up for Nov. and Dec. Bulletin for Dec. 10 due 12/1, Dec. 17 due 12/7, Dec. 24 due 12/13, Dec. 31 due 12/20 and Jan. 7 due 12/27. Thank you!