

**THE PARISHES OF ST. MICHAEL, ST. JOSEPH,  
AND MOST SACRED HEART — EAST ST. JAMES CIVIL PARISH**

**MASS STIPEND POLICY**

*Revised as of November 1, 2023*

Beginning October 1st of each year, the Pastoral Center will accept Mass stipends for the next calendar year, January through December.

**A doctrinal note:**

Because God is infinite in mercy and bestows His graces with the same infinite love, we do not speak of “sharing” or “dividing” the graces of the Eucharistic Sacrifice. Every intention, whether for an individual or for many people, offered with a stipend or held in the privacy of one’s heart, offered in a Mass, receives the exact same benefit from the infinite love and mercy of God.

This is why the Church allows “single intention” and “multiple intention” Masses, (see policies below). This is why, each person attending any Mass, even without offering a stipend, (simply holding an intention in one’s heart), receives the same graces for their intentions as does the person who paid a stipend for that Mass. This is why a “multiple intention” Mass might have over 100 intentions; not a single intention is any less nor more important than any other.

Thus, you might ask: *“Why offer or collect stipends if you don’t need a stipend to have your intention included in the Mass?”* Stipends are a way to support the practical costs of celebrating the Sacrifice of the Mass. It is a pious tradition which helps to insure that churches will have the priests and resources necessary for the Eucharist to continue.

**Therefore:** So that no church parish is deprived of parishioner support through stipends, whenever a person offers a stipend for a Mass, whether single or multiple, that person can apply the stipend to the parish of choice regardless of where the Mass will be celebrated.

[Example: a St. Michael parishioner offers a stipend for a Tuesday Mass at Prompt Succor Chapel. That person can request that the stipend be given to St. Michael Parish even though the Mass is offered in St. Joseph Parish.]

**Policies:**

1. Individual Mass stipends remain \$5.00 per intention.
2. Any person may offer a Mass stipend for any pious intention:
  - a. deceased family member(s) or friend(s);
  - b. chronically ill person(s);
  - c. other intentions after discussion with the pastor, (generally listed as “special intention.”)

**Please note:** When offering one Mass intention for a whole family, it will be listed as: *“The Smith Family”* or *“M/M David Smith & family,”* NOT: *“David & Sara Smith, Robert, Davis; Anna May and Edward Morgan.”*

3. A Mass intention with a stipend can only be accepted on a year by year basis and will be accepted for any regularly scheduled weekday or Sunday Mass open for stipends.

**Please note:** When a stipend has been accepted for a particular Mass, if for any reason that Mass does not take place, the intention will be offered as soon as possible at another Mass.

4. Because the quantity of offerings for Mass intentions can be greater than the number of Masses available, individuals are kindly asked to limit their *“single intention”* Mass request to one (1) Mass per year. Anyone desiring more intentions within the year should refer to policies #5 and #6 below.
5. By agreement of the individuals making the requests, when the single intention Masses for the year are filled, or people want more than one single intention during the year, we will accept these intentions with stipends and *send them (both intention and stipend) to another priest, such as a missionary or chaplain*, who can celebrate the Mass more promptly.
6. Because Catholic Church law allows for *“collective”* or *“multiple intention”* Masses as often as twice each week in each parish, (and we are three parishes), **the weekday Masses on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and the Saturday Vigil Masses (4:00 P.M. at St. Joseph and 6:00 P.M. at Sacred Heart) are reserved for multiple intentions.** This allows for *unlimited* Mass intentions at these Masses. Individuals who wish may offer stipends for as many intentions as they would like to be included in these Masses. There would be a list of names, as many as are received, for these Masses.

**Please note:** Because it is possible to send single intentions and stipends to other priests who do not receive Mass intentions, the *“multiple intention”* is an option being offered to allow for those who want to have their intentions celebrated *“in parish”* and are willing to have other intentions as part of the same Mass.

*Here is an example to illustrate how policy #4, #5, and #6 would work:*

- A. If you would want six (6) Masses said in the course of the year, according to policy #4, you could have one (1) single intention Mass, (as long as there are openings available). Then you could choose how you want the remaining five (5) Masses to be said, either using “B” or “C” below.
  - B. According to policy #5, we could on your behalf send any or all five remaining intentions out of the parish to some other priests who would say the Masses for you; (they would receive the stipends you offer).
  - C. Or, according to policy #6, you could have your remaining intentions placed on the list compiled for any multiple intention Masses. If the intentions are for the same person, that name would be added to different Masses. If the intentions are different, they could all be placed on the same Mass intention list. (In this case, stipends collected would go to the parish of your choice.)
7. Because of the limited number of single intention Masses and lengthy lists of names for multiple intention Masses, for the convenience of everyone, Mass intentions will simply be published in the church bulletin (already being done), and not read out or announced at each Mass.

## How intentions will be applied to the Cluster Mass schedule:

### Masses with “fixed” intentions:

(The fixed intention is named next to the Mass.)

#### A. Regular Sunday Masses:

8:00am – St. Michael – for the Parishioners of St. Michael

10:00am – St. Joseph – for the Parishioners of St. Joseph

5:00pm – Sacred Heart – for the Parishioners of Sacred Heart

#### B. These Special Masses:

1. December 25th, Christmas *Midnight* Mass – for all the priests (deceased or living) who have served within the three parishes of the Cluster.

2. January 1st, Mary, Mother of God, *first Mass offered* (whether Vigil or Morning, depending on the year) – for all the religious sisters and brothers (deceased or living) who have served within the three parishes of the Cluster.

3. **ALL** Ash Wednesday Masses – for all the deceased members of the three parishes of the Cluster (from the beginning of each parish).

4. Holy Thursday Mass – for an increase of religious vocations to the priesthood and religious life by members of the three parishes of the Cluster.

5. Easter Vigil Mass – for all who have converted or will convert to Catholicism from within the three parishes of the Cluster.

6. November 2nd, All Souls’ Day Mass – for all those on the Purgatorial List of the Cluster.

7. St. Peter Chanel School Masses (throughout the year) – the Purgatorial List of the Cluster. [School Mass is currently: Wednesdays, 8:00am, at St. Joseph.]

The “**Purgatorial List**” includes: 1) all members of the three parishes or parishioner family members who have died within the last 12 months; 2) those names added by request of parishioners through the use of All Souls’ Day envelopes; or 3) those names parishioners have written into the “Book of Life” at each of the church parishes, (regardless of when they were added).

### Masses open for “single” intentions:

7:00am Tuesday – Prompt Succor, Lutchter

7:00am Thursday – Prompt Succor, Lutchter

### Masses open for “multiple” intentions:

#### A. Saturday Vigil Masses:

4:00pm – St. Joseph, Paulina

6:00pm – Sacred Heart, Gramercy

#### B. Weekday Masses:

7:00am Monday – Prompt Succor, Lutchter

5:30pm Wednesday – Prompt Succor, Lutchter

7:00am Friday – Prompt Succor, Lutchter

C. **ALL** Holy Day Masses, (January 1, August 15, November 1, December 8, December 25), Vigil or Day Masses, unless listed above in the “*fixed*” intention Special Masses.

## SANCTUARY LAMP POLICY

Effective November 1, 2023

*The Catholic Church does have universal regulations governing the collection and use of Mass stipends. There are no such rules for donations received for Sanctuary Lamps, so these protocols are strictly for the Catholic Church in East St. James Civil Parish. They are enacted to provide guidance for an equitable collection and recognition of intentions associated with the various Sanctuary candles burning in our churches and chapels.*

**Note:** A “stipend” is an offering for a Mass intention. A “donation” is an offering for the burning of a candle. While stipends, by Church law, can be multiple, (the graces of the Mass are infinite), a donation is for an object, *which is always singular*. Therefore, there are no “multiple donation” candles.

In general, donations are for one (1) candle to burn in a Sanctuary Lamp for seven (7) days, Sunday through Saturday. Physical candles might need to be changed more or less frequently, so regardless of the actual candle, the donation is collected strictly by location by week.

Sanctuary Lamps are located at:

1. St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church, Convent;
2. St. Joseph Catholic Church, Paulina;
3. Our Lady of Prompt Succor Chapel, Lutchter
4. The Perpetual Adoration Chapel, (OLPS), Lutchter
5. Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church, Gramercy

Policies:

1. The individual candle donation is: \$10.00.
2. A pious intention can be associated with the donation, as follows:
  - a. deceased family member(s) or friend(s);
  - b. chronically ill person(s);
  - c. other intentions after discussion with the pastor, (generally listed as “special intention.”)

*Please note:* As with Mass intentions, when one donation is offered for a whole family, it will be listed as: “*The Smith Family*” or “*M/M David Smith & family*,” NOT: “*David & Sara Smith, Robert, Davis; Anna May and Edward Morgan.*”

3. Candle donations, like Mass intentions, can only be accepted on a year by year basis. That is: beginning October 1st of each year, the Pastoral Center will accept donations for the next calendar year, January through December.
4. Because there are only five (5) candles available each week, we are limiting particular donations to one (1) candle per month for the year; that is, not more than twelve (12) donations for the same intention in a calendar year, and only once in any given month, regardless of where the candle will be burning.

\*\*\* We want as many parishioners as possible to make donations for their intentions over the course of the year.