

Saint Michael the Archangel Parish Mass Intentions Policy

An ancient Catholic practice of charity is to pray for the living and the dead. The most powerful prayer we have is the Holy Mass, since the fruits of the Mass are the very fruits of the Paschal Mystery. For that reason, the Church encourages having Mass offered for loved ones who have died, or even for the living who have some great need.

Our parish receives many requests for scheduling Mass intentions. The following policy is implemented in order to accommodate the great number of Mass requests in a reasonable and just manner.

In order to give the opportunity for all parishioners to schedule a Mass intention for their loved ones and to provide for recently deceased individuals, the Mass intention book will be open for twelve (12) months out on a rolling basis starting the first of each month. Mass intentions cannot be scheduled more than one year in advance.

Guidelines for Mass Intentions:

1. Universal Church discipline as contained in the *Code of Canon Law* (canons 945 - 958) strictly regulates the offerings made for the celebration of Mass. Only one stipended intention is permitted per Mass (with the exception for a collective intention listed in #10 below).
2. Canon Law permits us to keep Mass intentions only for those Masses that can be celebrated by our priests within a calendar year. Accordingly, some intentions may have to be sent to the Chancery or to the missions for distribution to other priests who will be able to celebrate those Masses.
3. A Mass intention must be worthy, such as for a deceased loved one, a person who is sick, or the celebration of a significant event such as a wedding anniversary.
4. Lengthy intentions may be edited for the sake of brevity. Since the purpose of publishing the intention in the bulletin is to notify the family and friends of the intention, we suggest omitting middle initials, titles, etc.
5. A person may request two Mass intentions per month from Saint Michael Parish. These may be for either two weekday Masses or for one weekday Mass and one Sunday Mass. For the sake of convenience, our parish will take additional intentions and either fulfill them locally if possible or forward them (along with the stipend) to the Chancery or the missions for fulfillment.

6. Requests for Mass intentions must be made through the parish office by filling out a form. Requests will be honored in the order in which they are received. The first of the month opens the intentions for the month one year out. (For example, November 1st opens the month of November one year out).

7. A \$10 stipend (cash or check), as determined by diocesan policy, is to accompany each Mass request. Intentions will be recorded when the stipend is received, unless other arrangements have been made for those who are not able to make an offering. Canon law requires that all stipends taken for Mass intentions be said for the intention as designated.

8. Please note that specific Mass intentions are not scheduled for All Souls Day (November 2) since our parish Masses offered that day are celebrated for all the faithful departed.

9. As required by Canon Law, one Mass every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation must be scheduled for the intentions of our parishioners (i.e. "For the people of the parish"). This Mass will be scheduled on a rotating basis.

10. Scheduling of multiple 'stipended' intentions for one Mass (a collective intention) is permitted by Church law only twice a week. These collective intentions will be offered weekly at the 4:30 Saturday Vigil Mass and the 10:00 Sunday Morning Mass. An exception to this will be the week of Christmas, when the collective intention will be offered at the first Vigil Mass on December 24th and at the primary Mass on Christmas Day.

11. Mass requests will be granted as close to the requested date and time as possible. If it is not possible to comply with the primary request, the next closest date and time will be scheduled.

12. The schedule of Mass intentions is subject to change and there is no promise that they will be said on the planned day due to priest illness, schedule changes, vacations, etc. If a change occurs, an attempt will be made to contact the concerned parties ahead of time, but that is not always possible.

We thank you for your loving commitment to praying for those who have died and for those in need and we are grateful for your understanding regarding our Mass intentions policy. May God bless you!

Saint Michael the Archangel Parish
Findlay, Ohio
01/01/2022