

Mass Intention Policy:

One of the greatest acts of charity, and a beautiful and wonderful part of our Catholic tradition, is to pray for the living and the dead. The greatest and most powerful prayer we have is the Mass, since the fruits of the Mass are the very fruits of Jesus' redemption. We offer the Mass for a specific intention because we believe in the immense spiritual value of the Holy Sacrifice of Mass. For that reason, all are encouraged to have Mass offered for loved ones who have died and for the living with a special need.

In our Catholic parish there are many requests for scheduling such Mass intentions. The following policies are implemented, in order to accommodate the numerous Mass requests in a reasonable and fair manner.

1. In order to give the opportunity for all parishioners to schedule a Mass intention for their loved ones and to accommodate recently deceased individuals, **the Mass Intention book will open for the liturgical calendar year**, from the First Sunday of Advent until the Solemnity of Christ the King, **during the month of November**. Mass intentions may not be scheduled for more than one year in advance (can. 953).
2. According to the policy of the Diocese of Victoria, an offering of \$5.00 is requested, for each Mass intention. (<https://victoriadiocese.org/mass-intentions>)
3. Please take into consideration that **on Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation, one Mass is reserved for the "People of the Parish" (*Pro Populo*)**; therefore, we are limited to the number of Masses available on weekends. One does not have to be present for the intention to be valid.
4. **A donor may schedule a maximum of 8 Mass intentions per year; of that total, only 2 may be weekend Masses (one per weekend) and three may be assigned to weekday Masses. The remaining three Mass Intentions will be scheduled at the priests' discretion (totaling 8 Masses).**
5. **Special Intentions will no longer be allowed at the weekend Masses.** They will only be allowed at the priests' discretion and will not be publicly announced nor posted in the bulletin.
6. **A Mass intention may not be requested for a prayer intention that contradicts Catholic moral doctrine.**
7. **Lengthy intention listings cannot be published in the bulletin** and must be edited for the sake of brevity. We suggest the omission of middle initials, titles, etc. **Each intention is limited to either two names or one group (i.e. the Living & Deceased Members of the Smith Family).** Please be sure to indicate, if the person for whom the Mass is requested is living or dead.
8. A significant number of Mass intentions are often requested following the death of a loved one. **We will schedule a maximum of 5 Mass intentions for the deceased.** For example; if 18 Mass intentions are received from 6 donors, only 5 Masses will be scheduled on the Church's Mass schedule. Should you desire the celebration of more than the allotted Masses, we will forward the intentions we cannot celebrate within a one-year period to the office of the Chancellor, to give to priests in need of Mass intentions (can. 954). **One does not have to be present for the intention to be valid.**
9. **According to Church law, a parish is not to accept more Mass offerings than can be celebrated within one year (can. 953).**
10. **The time within which Masses must be celebrated (1 year) begins the day the intention is received.** (can. 955§2). The fruits of the Mass are the same whether we offer it in our own parish or in another parish. When we forward the Mass intentions to others, like retired priests or to priests in Mission areas where they do not receive enough Mass Intentions, we are directly supporting those priests and Missions.
11. **As a rule, there will be only one Mass intention per Mass.** Multiple intentions by the same donor are allowed but two donors, with **two separate intentions would be the rare exception.** According to the policy of the Diocese of Victoria, **Mass intentions may be combined at no more than two Masses per week, and there must be the expressed free consent of both parties** requesting the intentions.