

Holy Spirit Catholic Church
MASS INTENTION POLICY
Effective January 1, 2025

When the Mass is celebrated, the Son, Jesus Christ, with his Passion, Death, and Resurrection, is being offered to God the Father on behalf of all of creation. We pray for the entire Church, united in the Holy Spirit, living and dead, through Jesus. In addition to this universal nature of our liturgy, the priest and those present can also have specific intentions. Historically, at times, Christians would ask the priest to pray for a particular person's soul while he was celebrating the Mass. Christians would also provide the bread and wine or offer a donation to the poor or to the priest himself in thanksgiving for keeping this intention.

In accord with this type of request but also in order to keep priests from turning these donations into a complete free market or undermining the reality of Purgatory, the legislators of the Church have placed rules and limits on offering stipends for Mass intentions. Any donations are to be used for apostolic purposes, given to the poor, or to help sustain the priest himself.

I am thankful that our parishioners have embraced this piety. Unfortunately, the number of requests at Holy Spirit for Mass intentions has increased to more than we can handle. To allow a greater distribution of personal intentions for the limited Masses at our parish, the following policy is to be observed:

1. One Mass every Sunday and Holy Day is reserved by the Pastor to pray specifically for all the people (living and dead) in Holy Spirit Parish.
2. Mass intentions can be requested at the parish office and will be recorded in a calendar called the parish Massbook. Dates can be requested up to five (5) months from the current date. (For example on October 5, you will be able to request up to March 5; on October 6, you will be able to request up to March 6 and so on)
3. One individual requestor is limited to the request of two (2) specific Mass dates per calendar year (October 1 – September 30th) including a maximum of one weekend Mass.
4. Because multiple people may be requesting Mass intentions for the same individual, only the name of the intention will be listed. The requestor's name will not be listed.
5. If multiple requestors request Mass intentions for one individual (for example in the event of a death), at least two (2) will be said at Holy Spirit, but, unless there is a shortage of intentions in the Massbook, additional intentions will be forwarded to another priest.
6. A requestor can ask for unlimited Mass intentions (for different loved ones) but they will be scheduled in the Massbook when available within the required one (1) year.
7. A requestor must specify whether the intention is for a living or deceased person. The requestor can get a Mass card (a greeting card indicating that Mass is being offered for a specific person) in our office that indicates either type of intention.
8. New Mass intentions will not be accepted if they cannot be scheduled within a year at Holy Spirit or elsewhere.
9. The assumed donation for a Mass is \$10 in our region; however, any donation is acceptable.

