



**Marcus Holy Name Parish**  
**Remsen St. Mary's Parish**  
mostholynameofmary.org

## **PARISH MASS INTENTION POLICY**

**Updated October 2022**

1. Celebrating the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for a specific intention is a venerable tradition in the Church. Mass intentions are a form of almsgiving through which parishioners contribute to the good of the Church by supporting her ministers and her works. The efficacy of the Mass is such that it is possible to apply an infinite number of intentions to a Mass, but the priest is obliged to celebrate Mass for one and the only one intention for which he has received a Mass stipend or offering. [Canon 948; Diocesan Policy IV.3.22]
2. A Mass Intention may be requested for:
  - 1) A deceased person
  - 2) A living person who is sick or suffering or for their well-being
  - 3) A living person who is celebrating a birthday, anniversary, or other occasion
  - 4) In thanksgiving to God
  - 5) Living and deceased family members and families
  - 6) For a specific or special prayer intention (i.e., favorable weather for crops, protection of the unborn, etal..)
  - 7) An unknown "special" or "private" intention. The pastor should be provided with some limited information i.e., health concern, individual name as it is important to the pastor to know what he is praying for.
3. A Mass Intention **may not** be scheduled for:
  - 1) A prayer intention that contradicts Catholic teaching
4. **The offering for a Mass Intention is customarily \$10.00** and typically included at the time of scheduling, however, **no Mass Intention requests will be refused because of financial difficulty.** The Diocese of Sioux city has set \$10.00 as the customary offering as of 1 July 2018. [Diocesan Policy IV.3.20] **Please remember that when scheduling Mass Intentions the efficacy of the Mass being celebrated is the same regardless of date, time, or place.**
5. **Publication of Mass Intentions** will be done weekly in the parish bulletin. They will be announced during the Welcome/Introduction at the weekend Mass. The intention will not be announced in the Universal Prayers as it is the intention of the presiding priest and Universal Prayers are offered by the people attending the Mass.
6. Following Canon Law and to provide an opportunity for all parishioners to schedule a Mass Intention for loved ones and to accommodate Mass Intentions for recently deceased individuals, **Mass Intentions are only scheduled for one calendar year. Due to the limited availability of Masses, (an average of 12 Masses per month for Holy Name and 16 Masses per month for St. Mary's) Mass intentions are limited to no more than 6 Mass intentions per calendar year by the requestor.** Again, if one desires to have more Masses offered during the calendar year,



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the extra intentions with their stipends may be sent to retired and/or missionary priests with the permission of the requestor or to be returned the next calendar year.

7. **Requests for a specific intention and on a specific day** may be made in person at the parish offices in Marcus or Remsen or by phone call, or by mailing your request with an offering to the pastor. Checks should be made out to the parish or the pastor. Due to many requests and limited number of Masses at each of the parishes, particular dates may not be available so requests will be taken on a first come, first serve basis. The parish will do its best to accommodate the intention at the next available Mass. Also, due to the limited availability of Masses and size of the parishes, **no person/family may schedule more than two weekend and two daily Masses per quarter**. The reason for the limitation is that a *Pro Populo* (Parish Families) Mass is required to be offered by the pastor every weekend and First Thursday and Friday indentations are for an increase in priesthood and religious vocations.

Mass intention requests may be made for Holy Days of Obligation and holidays [i.e., Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter Sunday]. **However**, to allow all requestors to have a chance to have their intention on those dates and to allow for flexibility to assign intentions all requests will be approved by the pastor. No requestor can have consecutive yearly intention requests or for more than one holy day or holiday in a calendar year. Mass intentions for multiple people i.e., the living and deceased of the John & Sarah Doe Family and Fred & Ethel Smith Family or for Bob, Henry, Sam and Gerald Smith may be requested. No more than 4 individuals or 2 families is allowed.

8. Every effort will be made to accommodate desired dates, times, and church locations, especially with Mass intentions for the recently deceased. The pastor reserves the right to offer multiple intentions at his discretion and additional monies will be designated to other parish or parish school needs.

9. **Finally, to be compliant with the Code of Canon Law of the Catholic Church, please remember the following:**

- 1) **Mass intentions are only scheduled for a calendar year from the date they are given. The Pastor reserves the right to be flexible on this deadline.**
- 2) **Only one Mass intention will be assigned and published per Mass. However, there may be exceptions at the discretion of the pastor.**
- 3) **One Mass each weekend must be celebrated the Pastor of the Parish for the intention "Pro Populo" (For the People). When the Pastor has been entrusted with multiple parishes, he's required to do one Pro Populo Mass for said parish every weekend celebrating the Mass on a rotation schedule amongst the churches.**

10. The pastor reserves the right to modify this policy as parish circumstances dictate.