



# St. Joseph Catholic Church

— BRYAN, TX —

## Mass Intention Policy

### Rationale

We offer the Mass for a specific intention because we believe in the immense spiritual value of the Holy Sacrifice of Mass. All Masses celebrated daily and on Sundays are for all God's People, nevertheless it is fitting that each Mass has a particular intention for which it is offered in accord with the longstanding tradition of the Church. This is in accord with Canon Law (the laws of the Church).

### Specific Mass Intentions

A Mass Intention may honor:

- A deceased loved one
- A living person who is sick or suffering
- A living person who is celebrating a birthday, anniversary or other special moment
- In thanksgiving to God
- In thanksgiving for a prayer from a Blessed or a Saint
- For a prayer intention (if the intention does not contradict Church teaching)

### Mass Intention Policy at St. Joseph Catholic Church

For the good of all the Parish and to allow as many parishioners as possible the opportunity to have a Mass said for their intentions, Mass Intentions will be scheduled in accord with the following policies:

1. The Pastor has the sacred obligation of Celebrating Mass *pro populo*, that is applying a Mass for all his people on all Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. Accordingly, one of the Masses on these days will be offered *pro populo* (For the Parishioners of St. Joseph) and unavailable for another Mass intention (typically the 9 AM Mass).
2. Christmas Vigil and Christmas Day, Easter Vigil and Easter Masses, and Mother's Day and Father's Day Masses are always for the intentions of the Living and Deceased Members of the Parish.

3. Mass on the 1st Thursday of every month will be for "Vocations To The Priesthood", and that day will not be available for other intentions.
4. In accordance with Canon Law and Diocesan policy, Weekday Masses and Sunday Masses are offered for single intentions except for the following times at which a Mass may be offered for a group of collected Masses intentions with the consent of the requestor:
  - a. Sunday, 11 AM Mass
  - b. Friday, Mass at 8:15 AM

*Please note, because except for as noted above (Collective Mass Intentions), only one Mass intention and offering per Mass may be accepted; this means that it may not be possible to accommodate all the dates that are requested. We know that many days have special significance to those requesting the celebration of a Mass; we want to do our best to make reasonable accommodations. If a date requested is unavailable, we will place the Mass on the next available date. Many dates are filled months in advance, so we ask for your patience and charity.*

5. The calendar of Mass Intentions for the following Calendar year will open on the Monday after the First Sunday of Advent.
6. Only one Mass per day may be offered for any one intention.
7. Parish families are limited to 10 individual intentions per year; offerings for intentions beyond this limit will be added to the collective Mass intentions of the week requested.

## **How to Request a Mass Intention**

If you wish to request a Mass, please go online or contact the parish office. If a Mass intention is granted, then a Priest will celebrate Mass for the intention, even if there is no offering received.

## **Mass Offerings**

*"Christian faithful who make an offering so that the Mass may be applied for their intention contribute to the good of the Church and by their offering take part in the concern of the Church for the support of its ministers and works." (CIC, 946)*

**In the Diocese of Austin, the usual suggested donation for a Mass intention is \$5.** This is not a payment for a Mass, and priests can and often do celebrate without receiving an offering. This money is passed through the parish to the Priest who celebrates the Mass to support him. Only one Mass stipend per day may be kept by a priest who celebrates Mass for a given intention.

**To make a Mass intention offering at St. Joseph you may use cash, check (please put *Mass Offering* and your name in the memo), or the [online donation portal](#).**