

Requesting a Mass to be Offered for a Particular Person or Need

As in all Catholic parishes, our parish accepts requests from people for a Mass to be offered for the intention of any person, living or dead. The intention can also be for a general need such as vocations to the priesthood, world peace, or respect for human life. The suggested donation for a Mass intention, according to Archdiocesan policy, is \$7.00 per Mass intention. People who give a Mass offering contribute to the good of the Church and the support of its ministers and works.

Many Catholic parishes accept only one offering and one intention per Mass. This is in accord with the Code of Canon Law which states: “any priest celebrating or concelebrating a Mass is permitted to receive an offering to apply the Mass for a specific intention” (Canon 945); and “separate Masses are to be applied for the intentions of those for whom a single offering, although small, has been given and accepted” (Canon 948).

However, starting in 1991, the Congregation for the Clergy made an adjustment to the issue of Mass intentions which ruled that a parish may accept several offerings for a “collective intention” at a single Mass as long as: 1) the donors must be informed of and consent to the combining of their offerings before the Mass for the collective intention is celebrated; 2) the place and time for the Mass must be announced; 3) the practice may not be observed more than twice a week; 4) the celebrant may keep for himself no more than the usual amount of a single Mass. (Note: priests of this Archdiocese do not personally keep Mass offerings; Mass offerings are kept by the parish.)

Therefore, I have decided to implement a new policy regarding Mass offerings at Immaculate Conception. Beginning April 1, 2012, Immaculate Conception parish will accept up to three Mass offerings and intentions at the 7:30 am Mass on Tuesdays and Fridays. There will be no change to the Mass intentions already accepted thus far in our calendar on Tuesdays and Fridays, but any new Mass intentions accepted on Tuesdays and Fridays will be part of the collective intention for that day’s Mass. The name(s) of the people for the Mass intention will continue to be published in the parish bulletin. On weekends, the Mass intention is read aloud by the Cantor before Mass begins, and on weekdays I usually read aloud the name for the Mass intention during the Prayers of the Faithful. Our parish accepts one Mass offering per month and up to six Mass offerings per year for a specified person or general need, and we will schedule Mass intentions as far as 18 months in advance.

If you would like to arrange a Mass offering, please talk to Sue Ashmore in our Parish Office. Please contact me if you have questions. I hope you see the new policy as a positive change.

God bless you,

Father John Mitchell