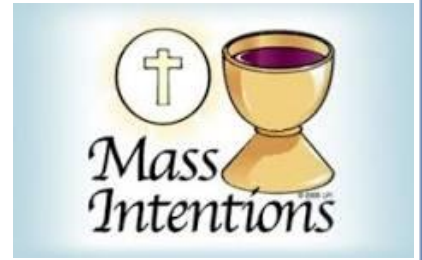


Mass Intentions



- **What is a Mass Intention?**

A Mass intention is a specific prayer request that a priest will offer during the celebration of Mass.

- **Why request one?**

Catholics often request Mass intentions for various reasons, including:

- **For the deceased:** It may seem counterintuitive to offer a Mass intention for a person who has died, as their time on earth is finished. However, the practice of offering Mass intentions for the deceased relates to the Catholic belief in purgatory. As Catholics, we believe souls who die in a state of sin go through a purification process before entering heaven. We offer Masses for our deceased loved ones to aid them in their journeys to heaven. We pray with hope that the graces imparted by the Mass usher them further towards eternity with God. Pope Francis said that offering the celebration of the Eucharist for the dead ***“is the best spiritual help that we can give to their souls, particularly to the most abandoned ones.”***
- **For the living:** To pray for the well-being, health, or intentions of a living person (e.g., for a birthday, anniversary, or special occasion).
- **In thanksgiving:** To express gratitude to God for blessings received.
- **For special needs:** To ask for God's help in specific situations, like illness or difficult circumstances.

- **How does it work?**

When a priest celebrates Mass, he offers the sacrifice for a particular intention, applying the graces of the Mass to that specific request.

- **Is it just for the individual?**

While the Mass is offered for the specific intention, the entire community benefits from the graces of the Mass. The faithful can also join in the intention privately during the Mass.

- **How to request one:**

Typically, you can request a Mass intention by contacting the parish office, or filling out an intention form. There is often a suggested offering (stole fee) to support the priest and the parish.

- **Stole Fee for Mass Intention:**

The recommended stole fee, as prescribed by Bishop Zugu (Sep'2023), is R60/intention

- **Tradition:**

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states:
*“From the beginning, the Church has honoured the memory of the dead and offered prayers in suffrage for them, above all the **Eucharistic Sacrifice**, so that, thus purified, they may attain the beatific vision of God”* (CCC1032).



San Francisco Catholic Church