

## St. Bartholomew Mass Intention Policy

Effective June 1, 2024

The custom of making a donation to have a Mass offered for a specific intention goes back to the early centuries of the Church. At Mass, all of our prayers and intentions are joined to the one sacrifice of Christ. When a person requests a Mass intention and gives a donation, that specific Mass intention becomes the particular Mass intention of the priest for that Mass (this donation is traditionally known as the "stipend," i.e., the money paid to the priest as part of his wages). The current standard donation for a Mass intention here in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati is \$5.00. Only one such donation (and one official specific intention for the priest) can be accepted for each Mass. It is important to remember that no one is ever "buying" a Mass; we are simply paying a portion of the priest's wages, who accepts the obligation of offering the Mass for that intention.

Most Mass intentions are for the repose of the souls of loved ones who have died; however, they can also be for the special intentions of the living, or for blessings on individuals, couples, or families on birthdays or anniversaries (it is presupposed that the intentions of the person are good and the anniversaries are of events in accord with Church teaching).

When someone makes a donation for a specific Mass intention, the only obligation of the priest is that the Mass intention be satisfied. He does this simply by intending at the beginning of Mass to offer the Eucharistic Sacrifice for the intention for which the donation was made. There is no obligation to have the intention mentioned aloud in the petitions or by the priest, the deacon, or any other lector/announcer; customs vary from church to church and pastor to pastor (while people like this custom, it brings with it the possibility of reading the wrong name/intention or mispronouncing the name). Currently at St. Bartholomew, we have a custom of mentioning the name of the deceased person in the petitions. This may change in the future.

Here at St. Bartholomew, we currently have a total of 4 regularly scheduled Masses each week: Monday and Tuesday, the Vigil Mass on Saturday, and the morning Mass on Sunday. Back in our heyday, St. Bartholomew had closer to 20 Masses each week; our situation is very different now! Canon law states that each Sunday one Mass is to be offered for the people of the parish. **This leaves us with only 3 Masses each week available for Mass intentions.** Thus, we need to limit the number of Mass intentions accepted, so as to meet the needs of as many people as possible. Please know that we are not allowed to accept more Mass intentions than can be satisfied in a year (we are not allowed to have a huge backlog). The good news is that there are priests in missionary countries who would happily take on these Mass intentions! The Parish Office can assist with both St. Bartholomew intentions and sending intentions to the missions.

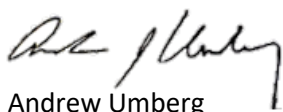
In order to allocate this precious resource in a fair way, we will only accept Mass intentions for the coming six months. For example, if today is January 1<sup>st</sup>, we will accept Mass intentions for January, February, March, April, May, and June. On February 1<sup>st</sup>, we will accept Mass intentions February, March, April, May, June, and July.

Our policy is to initially accept one Mass intention for newly deceased parishioners to be offered as soon as possible. We will hold two Masses per month for newly deceased parishioners, however, these Masses may come available if they are not needed. We will do our best to schedule intentions for the sick, birthdays, and anniversaries, however, we cannot guarantee dates.

Should we find that we need Mass intentions to fill out the six months we will make appropriate announcements.

Thank you for your understanding.

Yours in Christ:



Fr. Andrew Umberg