

MASS INTENTION GUIDELINES

In recent months, there have been some questions raised in regards to the offering of Mass intentions. Canon law states "In accordance with the approved custom of the Church, any priest who celebrates or concelebrates a Mass may accept an offering to apply the Mass for a specific intention. (Canon law 945) The faithful who make an offering so that Mass can be celebrated for their intention, contribute to the good of the Church, and by that offering they share in the Church's concern for the support of its ministers and its activities. (Canon law 946) Separate Masses must be applied for the intentions of those for whom an individual offering, even if small, has been made and accepted (Canon law 948) **Accordingly, we can only accept one intention per Mass offering.** We do accept intentions for deceased family members, i.e. Smith Family+, or for deceased parents, i.e. John and Mary Smith+.

The Mass stipend is regulated by Canon law 952 "The provincial council or the provincial Bishops' meeting is to determine by decree, for the whole of the province, what offering is to be made for the celebration and application of Mass. Nonetheless, it is permitted to accept, for the application of a Mass, an offering voluntarily made, which is greater, or even less, than that which has been determined". **The stipend suggested in the Diocese of Charleston is currently \$10.00 per Mass.**

While we have in the past accepted Masses farther out than one year, we will now abide by Canon law 953 "No one may accept more offerings for Masses to be celebrated by himself than he can discharge within a year". **This means that no Mass will be scheduled farther out than one year. This is being followed by all three local parishes.**

If in certain churches or oratories more Masses are requested than can be celebrated there, these may be celebrated elsewhere, unless the donors have expressly stipulated otherwise.

(Canon law 954). If a specific date is unavailable at the parish, we can send the intention and the stipend to the bishop and he will distribute them to be offered as requested.