



THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN FRANCISCO

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

ONE PETER YORKE WAY, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94109-6602 (415) 614-5500

DECREE REGARDING OFFERINGS FOR SACRAMENTS, SACRAMENTALS, AND FUNERALS

Christ entrusted to the Church the sacraments of the New Testament for the sanctification of the Christian people. Since all of the faithful who are properly disposed and not prohibited by law have the right to receive the sacraments (cf. can. 843, §1 *CIC*), there is no charge for the administration of the sacraments or of sacramentals. Thus, while in practice it is customary to request an offering on the occasion of the administration of a sacrament and certain other services of the Church, no one will be deprived of this assistance because of poverty (cf. can. 848 *CIC*).

Therefore, in accord with canons 1264, 2° and 1181 of the *Code of Canon Law*, the bishops of the Province of San Francisco, in a meeting held on October 21, 2014, have defined the following **maximum** limits on the amounts that may be **requested** on the following occasions:

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---------|---|
| Baptisms: | \$100 | |
| Weddings: | \$1,000 | <i>The diocesan bishop may grant an exception to this norm for particular circumstances</i> |
| Funerals: | \$300 | |
| House and building blessings: | \$50 | |
| Car blessings: | \$50 | |
| Quinceañeras: | \$500 | |

Parishes may request amounts less than, but not more than, the amount defined by the bishops of the province.

Concern should always be exercised that **the needy are not deprived of spiritual services due to difficulty in giving an offering.**


Any amount received up to the defined amount must go to the parish, unless particular law allows otherwise as part of a pre-existing diocesan remuneration policy. This requirement applies to all clergy who have received appropriate faculties (canons 531, 551, 1267, §1 *CIC*).

Additional voluntary amounts given are also presumed to go to the parish, unless there is express proof to the contrary of the donor's intention. However, such additional voluntary amounts may not licitly be requested or suggested.

All customs, policies and practices to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at the curia of the Archdiocese of San Francisco on April 17, 2015.


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Most Reverend Salvatore J. Cordileone, J.C.D.
Archbishop of San Francisco


Reverend Monsignor C. Michael Padazinski, J.C.D.
Judicial Vicar and Chancellor



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DECREE REGARDING MASS OFFERINGS

Canon 952, §1, provides that the amount of an offering to be made for the celebration and application of a Mass is to be established by the bishops of the ecclesiastical province. In providing for this requirement, the bishops of the Ecclesiastical Province of San Francisco met on December 2, 1996, and determined that the amount of such offerings will be set as follows:

1. The amount specified for a Mass to be celebrated in a parish or chapel is \$10.00.
2. When a sum of money has been left for Masses in a will or bequest with no indication of the specified number of Masses to be supplied, or when the amount of the offering is not specified, the amount to be applied to each Mass shall be \$20.00.
3. Pastors are obliged to apply one Sunday Mass for the people entrusted to their pastoral care, either personally or through another (can. 534, §1). No offering is to be attached to the celebration of this Mass.

It is permitted for a priest to receive and retain an offering in an amount larger than is specified above, provided that it is freely and spontaneously given; and it is allowed for a priest to take less than the usual offering, as, for example, in the case of the poor. At no time, however, should a person be denied a Mass request on the basis of his or her inability to provide for a monetary offering.

It is left to the responsibility of each diocesan bishop to determine the manner in which a second offering received by a priest on the occasion of celebrating an additional Mass on the same day will be applied as provided for by canon 951, §1, and with due regard for the exception of Christmas Day.

These norms have received the consent of the bishops of this Ecclesiastical Province. Hence, in virtue of my office as Metropolitan, I hereby direct that these provisions become normative throughout the Ecclesiastical Province of San Francisco at once, all customs, practices and policies to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at the Archdiocese of San Francisco on this date, April 17, 2015.

Most Reverend Salvatore J. Cordileone, J.C.D.
Archbishop of San Francisco

Reverend Monsignor C. Michael Padazinski, J.C.D.
Judicial Vicar and Chancellor