

To: Parishioners of Our Lady Queen of Peace and St. Thomas More Parishes
From: Rev. Joseph A. Hart, Pastor
Re: Revised Mass Intention Policy
Date: September 25, 2020

In the midst of the Covid-19 Pandemic, many things have had to change. Please be patient with us as we adjust one more thing to correspond to our new lived reality.

Following Governor Cuomo's guidelines, we have carefully re-opened both churches but, as you know, we are not celebrating the same number of Masses on a weekend as we did pre-Covid. Fewer Sunday Masses has caused a problem for some of our parishioners, who have regularly honored an anniversary or a birthday of a loved one by requesting that a Mass be offered that day for his or her intention. Moreover, some of our Masses on these days are pre-recorded and some are live. Not a few parishioners prefer that the Mass they requested not be a pre-recorded Mass. To honor all these new circumstances, we have revised our Mass Intention Policy for both parishes.

1. No Mass intentions will be accepted for the six months beginning January 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2021 **until** 8:00 AM on Wednesday, October 14, 2020. Since we are only accepting intentions for a six-month period at this point, please be mindful that others also will be requesting Masses for the limited amount of Masses available.
2. Letters, e-mails and notes requesting that Mass be celebrated for a particular intention received before October 14, 2020 will be collected, kept and opened at 8:00 AM on October 14, 2020. They will be treated concurrently with those who arrive in person on that date as if they too were standing in line.
3. Mass requests without specifying whether a Mass must be celebrated in person will be assigned either to an in-person Mass or a taped Mass.
4. When conflicts occur, i.e. when more than one person on October 14, 2020 requests that a Mass be celebrated at a particular time and on a particular day, all such requests will be placed in a bowl and, at the end of the day, one request per Mass will be drawn from the bowl at random.

This adjusted policy will be in effect until further notice. Thank you for your understanding.