

ST. PAUL PARISH 2022 MASS BOOK

As we prepare to open the 2022 Mass Book, I want to share once again a few thoughts about the practice of having a Mass said for a deceased or living person. Most often we ask that a Mass be said for someone who has died because they rely on us, the living, to pray for them. However, Masses can also be offered in Thanksgiving for something or someone or for a living person as a spiritual gift for example on the occasion of their birthday, anniversary, or when they are sick. Some of what follows comes from a column written by Fr. William Saunders in the *Arlington Catholic Herald*.

"The tradition of offering Masses for others, particularly the dead, originates in the very early Church. Inscriptions discovered on tombs in Roman catacombs of the second century evidence this practice. . . St. Cyril of Jerusalem (d. 386), in one of his many catechetical discourses, explained how at Mass both the living and dead are remembered, and how the Eucharistic Sacrifice of our Lord is of benefit to sinners, living and dead. St. Ambrose (d. 397) preached, "We have loved them during life; let us not abandon them in death, until we have conducted them by our prayers into the house of the Lord." Fr. Saunders also quoted St. John Chrysostom (d. 407) when he stated, "Let us not hesitate to help those who have died and to offer our prayers for them." Fr. Saunders concluded his reflection with these words: "We find not only the origins of this practice dating to the early Church but we also clearly recognize its importance. When we face the death of someone, even a person who is not Catholic, to have a Mass offered for the repose of [their] soul and to offer our prayers are more beneficial and comforting than any other sympathy card or bouquet of flowers. To have a Mass offered on the occasion of a birthday, anniversary or special need is appropriate, beneficial and appreciated."

When you come and ask for a Mass to be offered for someone you are NOT "buying a Mass" though some refer to it that way. Church law in Canon 946 states: "The Christian faithful who make an offering so that the Mass may be applied for their intention contribute to the good of the Church and by their offering take part in the concern of the Church for the support of its ministers and works." The suggested, but not obligatory offering at St. Paul's for weekday Masses is \$10 and \$15 for Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. The regular weekday and weekend Mass schedule will remain the same in 2022. We will use the same tiered approach that we used last year for the opening of the 2022 Mass Book this year.

Tier A will open on Tuesday, September 21st and run until Friday, October 8th for the following wedding and death anniversary requests ONLY:

1. For those who are celebrating their 25th, 40th, 50th, 55th, 60th, etc. wedding anniversary in 2022. These couples may reserve one Mass on a day of their choosing (does not have to be the actual anniversary date).
2. One Mass intention on the occasion of the 1st anniversary of death of a loved one. The date of the Mass does not have to be the actual death anniversary.

The donation for the stipend must be submitted at the time the Mass is reserved. If the donation is not received by October 8th the date will be released.

Tier B opens on Wednesday, October 13th. Due to the large number of Mass intention requests, and so that as many parishioners as possible can have a reasonable opportunity to arrange to have a Mass said for their loved ones, parishioners will be limited to three (3) reserved dates per living or deceased person. These reserved dates may be three (3) weekday Masses or two (2) weekday and one (1) weekend Mass. Only one Mass per family is allowed on a weekend date. This restriction will be in place through November 30th. This will allow everyone seven (7) weeks to arrange the Masses they would like for next year.

Tier C will begin on Wednesday, December 1st when the limitations noted above will be lifted. Your understanding and cooperation is most appreciated as we try to accommodate as many parishioners and as many Mass requests as possible.

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Sacred Heart Mass Intentions - Mass intentions will be accepted for the 9:30 a.m. Sunday Mass at Sacred Heart Church. Like last year though, if the obligation to attend Sunday Mass should be suspended because of COVID (or any other reason) Mass will not be celebrated at Sacred Heart. In that case, the intention will be transferred to a Sunday Mass on the same weekend at St. Paul. We are able to do that easily because each weekend the intention for one of the Masses has to be "For the People of the Parish." While that intention must be offered it can be celebrated on another day of the week by one of the priests. Refunds will not be given for any intention once it has been recorded.

Multiple Intentions for same Mass - Canon Law (Canon 948) requires that only one intention is allowed per Mass. The donor is free to include as many names as they desire, but it is one intention for those being remembered. However, in 1991 Pope John Paul II in a decree issued by the Congregation for the Clergy allowed for a "collective" intention no more than twice a week. Here at St. Paul's the Tuesday 7:00 a.m. Mass and the Thursday 5:00 p.m. Mass are set aside as days for these "collective" intentions when up to five (5) intentions will be accepted for the one single Mass. You as the donor must ascent to this arrangement when scheduling a Mass on those days at those times.

The Parish Center is open Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. If you have questions regarding the opening of the 2022 Mass Book call the office at 860-828-0331 and one of the ladies in the office will be able to help you.



"Do this in remembrance of me."

1 Corinthians 11:24