

***Saint Joseph Church
25 Church Street – P.O. Box 128
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Mass Intentions Policy

The practice of requesting a Mass to be celebrated for loved ones, living or deceased, is a beautiful and meaningful part of our Catholic tradition. Mass intentions are regulated by the 1983 Code of Canon Law, the Particular Law established by the Roman Catholic Bishops of the Boston Metropolitan Province, and the Diocese of Manchester. To conform to the requirements of the aforementioned legislative agencies, and to reasonably accommodate the regulation of Mass intentions requested at Saint Joseph Parish on a fair and legal basis, the following parish policy is enacted:

1. Mass intentions are scheduled through the parish office on a first-come, first-served basis.
2. Mass intentions are not accepted more than one year in advance of the requested date of the intention, based upon a rolling calendar year. Stipends are accepted at the time a Mass intention is booked, but are not held in escrow for any future, anticipated Mass intentions not yet booked.
3. Office staff are permitted to accept a maximum of fifteen (15) Mass intentions per household per calendar year, unless permission is granted otherwise by the pastor. All Mass intention requests are subject to the acceptance of the pastor.
4. Stipends and Mass intentions that cannot be fulfilled at the parish level within one calendar year must be transferred to the Diocese of Manchester's Finance Office.
5. The Bishops of the Boston Metropolitan Province have established a fixed stipend amount of \$10 per Mass intention. Payment is accepted at the same time the Mass intention is entered into the parish master calendar.

6. Scheduled Mass intentions are subject to change if the Mass schedule changes. In such cases, the individual requesting the Mass intention will be contacted and an attempt to reschedule the Mass intention will be made.
7. Statutes for the Diocese of Manchester require priests to celebrate three Masses for the repose of the soul of a priest of the Diocese who dies.
8. Mass intentions for the following dates are fixed on the parish's master calendar:
 - One Mass intention per weekend and one Mass intention on holy days must be applied as the *Missa pro populo* – Mass for the people of the parish.
 - On the weekend of Mother's Day, all Masses other than the *Missa pro populo*, are applied for "All Mothers, both living and deceased."
 - On the weekend of Father's Day, all Masses other than the *Missa pro populo* are applied for "All Fathers, both living and deceased."
 - At the Holy Triduum Masses and on the weekend of Easter, all Mass intentions are applied as the *Missa pro populo*.
 - On the Solemnity of All Saints, all Masses are applied as the *Missa pro populo*.
 - On Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, all Mass intentions are applied as the *Missa pro populo*.

Please be patient and kind, flexible and considerate with the members of the office staff who are trying to serve you.