

SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS CHURCH

2021 MASS INTENTION GUIDELINES

Similar to how we are able to intercede for others by our personal prayers, the Church is able to intercede for us through the celebration of the Mass. As the Eucharist is the “source and summit of the Christian life,” the Mass has a power beyond that of our personal prayers. When a priest celebrates Mass, he offers each celebration of the Eucharist for a particular intention. By doing so, he applies special graces from God upon that intention. An individual may ask a priest to offer a Mass for several reasons: for example, in thanksgiving, for the intentions of another person (such as on a special wedding anniversary or birthday), or as is most common, for the repose of the soul of someone who has died. At Saint Thomas Aquinas Parish, there are many requests for Mass intentions. To accommodate these requests in a reasonable manner, the following is our policy:

- We accept intentions for only one calendar year at a time. Requests for the calendar year open the last Monday in October of the year prior. **Beginning November 2, 2020, we will accept Mass intentions for January – December 2021. Please complete the Mass Intention Request Form for all requests.** You may submit your request in one of three ways:
 - Place your completed request form in the offertory basket. You may place your form in the basket the weekend prior (October 31/November 1) to ensure it is received that Monday morning.
 - Stop by the parish office November 2 or thereafter to place your request in person.
 - Call the parish office November 2 or thereafter to place your request via phone.
- Requests will be honored on a **first-come, first-served** basis in the order in which they are received. Mass intention requests received throughout the year will be considered serious obligations and every effort will be made to schedule them as soon as possible; however, we cannot guarantee that Mass requests will be celebrated immediately.
- At this time, we will accept **no more than 4 (four) intentions per registered household per year;** and of those four, **no more than 2 (two) Sunday intentions.** A Sunday intention is defined as either the Saturday Vigil Mass or the two Sunday morning Masses. We pledge to fulfill these intentions here at Saint Thomas during the 2021 year. Additional intentions can be sent to retired diocesan priests or the Diocesan Missions Office to be fulfilled or may be available here at Saint Thomas Aquinas later in the year.
- A \$10 stipend as determined by Diocesan policy is to accompany each Mass request. Checks may be made payable to “Saint Thomas Aquinas Church;” please put the words “Mass Intention” in the memo portion of the check. Cash is also accepted but we suggest that cash be limited to in-person or offertory basket submissions and not be sent through the mail.
- Please note the following:
 - Only one intention per Mass may be scheduled.
 - One Mass every Sunday and Holy Day is required to be reserved for the intentions of our parishioners known as “Pro Populo” (For the People) as required by Canon Law and diocesan statute.
 - Mass intentions may be scheduled for individuals, married couples or entire families.
- Mass requests will be granted as close to the requested date and time as possible. If it is not possible to comply with the primary request, the next closest date and time will be scheduled. If we must move a request to a different date and/or time, we will notify you of the change. Please print your phone number and/or e-mail address CLEARLY. Extenuating circumstances may at times require us to cancel a Mass. If an intention is scheduled, we will notify you and try to find another date for the originally scheduled intention to be celebrated. If no date is available, we will send the intention to a retired priest or the Missions Office.
- Canon Law does not permit us to keep Mass intentions beyond those that we are able to schedule in a year’s time. Because of this, some intentions may need to be sent to the Diocesan Missions Office or to retired priests who will be able to celebrate these Masses more expeditiously.