

# Mass Intention Policy

## St. James Parish & St. Ambrose Parish

*"In the celebration of the Eucharistic Sacrifice, the Church prays that God, the Father of mercies, will grant His children the fullness of the Holy Spirit so that they may become one body and one spirit in Christ. In raising this prayer to the Father of lights, from whom comes every good endowment and every perfect gift, the Church believes that she will be heard, for she prays in union with Christ her Head and Spouse, who takes up this plea of His Bride and joins it to His own redemptive sacrifice" (No. 43). Pope Saint John Paul II – 'Ecclesia de Eucharistia'*

It is important for us to keep in mind that the tradition of offering Masses for others, particularly the dead, originates in the very early Church and continues to this day.

Individuals may request that a Mass be offered for several reasons:

- in thanksgiving,
- for the intentions of another person (such as on a birthday),
- for the repose of the soul of someone who has died.

One must never forget the infinite graces that flow from the Sacrifice of the Mass which benefit one's soul.

*"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."*

-St. Ambrose (d.397)

When I celebrate Mass I intend to offer the Mass reverently, validly, in union with the whole Church and for the good of the whole Church. I also

offer the mass for the particular intentions of those living and dead.

As the pastor of St. James Parish and St. Ambrose Parish I have the obligation to offer Mass on Sunday for the intentions of the living and deceased parishioners of the parish.

This is the '*Pro Populo*' Mass - The Mass for the people of the parish.

Since reducing the Mass schedule at both parishes I have noticed a great demand for masses to be offered and the inability of the parish to fulfil the requests in a timely manner.

In order to respond pastorally to the spiritual requests of both wonderful parishes and fulfill my obligations as pastor we will begin having multiple intentions for masses as the need arises.

The first intention scheduled will continue to have the honour of presenting the gifts during the offertory if they desire.

The stipend / donation that is given for the first intention will go to the parish and any subsequent stipends / donations will go to the Parish Outreach for the Poor.