

Masses with Multiple Intentions

Dear parishioners,

Archbishop Prendergast recently approved changes to Policy No. 26 on Mass Offerings. This Policy was previously revised in 2004 when the practice of scheduling Masses with multiple intentions on Sundays and throughout the week in several parishes was normalized. With these new changes taking effect on January 1, 2013, the Policy has been revised so that our practice is in conformity with the mind of the Church, as enunciated in the 1991 Decree *Mos iugiter* (On Collective Mass Intentions) by the Congregation for the Clergy.

The tradition of giving offerings to have Masses celebrated for specific intentions is a laudable one and should be maintained as much as possible. Christ's faithful who make an offering so that Mass can be celebrated for their intention, contribute to the good of the Church, especially the support of the sacred ministers and the fulfillment of the Church's apostolic activity (cf. canon 946). Normally, a separate Mass is celebrated for each individual offering. The recommended diocesan offering for an announced (communal) Mass is still \$15.00, to be remitted to the priest celebrant. The offering for an unannounced Mass (not announced publicly) is raised to \$10.00 (as of January 1, 2013).

The Church permits Masses with multiple intentions as an exception to normal practice. In these cases, with the donors having been explicitly informed beforehand and freely consented to combining the offerings in a single offering, their intentions can be satisfied with a single Mass celebrated according to a "collective" intention. In such cases, it will be necessary to make public, by way of the bulletin, the place and time for the celebration of this Mass, which is not to be more than twice a week. As per the Archbishop's instructions, these two Masses may be scheduled on any day, including Sunday, at the discretion of the pastor and may include any number of intentions, within reason. As of January 1, 2013, in our parish, the two Masses designated as "multiple intention" Masses will be We may decide in the future to rotate these Masses within the schedule.

Effective immediately, the parish office staff will be scheduling only these two Masses with multiple intentions per week after the date of January 1, 2013. However, we have been instructed to fulfill any Masses with multiple intentions for which the offerings have already been received even if the date falls after January 1, 2013. Parishioners will be encouraged to have unannounced Masses offered if the schedule fills up too quickly. These Mass intentions and offerings could be sent to the Chancery office to be celebrated by our retired priests or priests in mission territories who depend on them for their sustenance.