

## **Mass Intentions & Memorials**

### **St. John Neumann Catholic Church**

*"What can we do to pray for a loved one, living or deceased, or how can we honor or memorialize them at St. John Neumann parish?"*

§ Gifts to **Funeral Ministry** support us in providing hospitality and liturgical services for grieving families. Donations should be clearly marked with "Funeral Ministry" and the name of the person who is being honored or memorialized. Donations can be given to the Pastoral Care Associate.

§ Gifts to the **Liturgy Donations Fund** help with the cost of liturgical items, such as vestments, altar cloths, sacred vessels, etc. Donations should be clearly marked with "Liturgy Donations" and the name of the person who is being memorialized or honored. Donations can be given to the Pastoral Care Associate or the Liturgy Associate. They may also be placed in the collection or sent to the office.

§ **Flower Donations** can be made at any time, but are especially collected at Christmas and Easter. Donations should be marked with "Flower Donations" and the name of the person(s) being honored or memorialized. Donations can be placed in the collection or sent to the office. Persons honored or memorialized are listed in bulletins during the Christmas or Easter seasons.

§ Light a **Votive Candle in the Chapel** for any intention. Lighting a candle allows you to extend your prayer throughout the time that the candle is burning. It also allows others who pray in the chapel to lift up your intention in prayer. An optional small donation may be placed in the wooden box near the candles.

#### **§ Mass Intentions:**

1. You may request a particular Mass intention by calling, emailing, or visiting the parish office. A weekday Mass may be requested for the particular intention of
  - a person who is deceased,
  - a person who is living,
  - a particular intention deemed appropriate to the celebration of the Eucharist (e.g. World Peace, Vocations, Respect for Life, etc.).

Having a Mass or several Masses offered for the intention of a person who is deceased is an ancient and commendable practice. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is offered to pray for a person that they may be at peace in heaven.

In Canon Law, a "Mass intention" refers to holding up to the Lord a *particular* intention in addition to those included in every Eucharistic Prayer: the Holy Father, the diocesan bishop, the clergy and "the entire people your Son has gained for you" (Eucharistic Prayer III) - including the eternal peace of all who have died. It is good to remember that every celebration of the Mass effectively embraces the entire human family, living and deceased.

2. The suggested offering in our archdiocese is \$7.00 per Mass, for those who are in the financial position to make a donation.

Offerings for Mass intentions are gratuitous gifts offered for the welfare of the Church and its priests, in a pattern similar to a memorial donation made to the Red Cross or other charity. Canon 946: "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 ministries and works." The only obligation the parish assumes in accepting an offering is that the priest silently remembers the intention as he prays the Eucharistic Prayer at a Mass which he celebrates.

3. Mass intentions need not be named during Mass. Intentions are to be posted in public. At St. John Neumann the Mass intentions are posted outside the sacristy and the chapel. Intentions may also be announced before Mass.
4. The person who requests the Mass intention is not named or posted publicly.
5. The person requesting the intention may ask for a card that can be sent to notify a person that a Mass intention has been requested and the date and time of the Mass(es) (one card per intention).
6. Mass intentions are not available for weekend liturgies or holy days of obligation. Those Masses are celebrated for the entire parish.
7. Only one particular Mass intention may be offered per Mass.
8. Mass intentions are filled on a first come first served basis.
9. A Mass intention can only be requested for a Mass that will be celebrated within twelve (12) months from the date of the request.
10. In consideration of the needs of the parish and others interested in having Mass intentions, a family can request a maximum of one (1) Mass per month. Additional requests may be considered based on the needs of the parish.
11. The pastor may decline any request for a Mass intention. In exceptional circumstances the date of any Mass intention may be subject to change.
12. The Center for Mission of the archdiocese also accepts mass stipend donations and coordinates distribution to mission dioceses for the celebration of requested intentions. Call the Center for Mission at 651-222-6556 or visit their website: [www.centerformission.org](http://www.centerformission.org) .

*Contact us with any questions regarding Mass intentions or memorials.*

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