

The Church of Jesus the Good Shepherd

Dear JGS Parishioners,

August 20, 2023

A common question for priests is: *"What can we do to pray for a loved one, living or deceased, or how can we do something to honor or memorialize them at our parish?"* This is a common question for us, especially after the death of a loved-one. Sometimes we think the only way to honor and memorialize a person is by means of a Mass intention.

Mass Intentions & Memorials: To have a Mass or several Masses offered for a person who is deceased is an ancient and commendable practice. A Mass is offered to pray for a person that they may be at peace in heaven, having been purged of their sins in Purgatory. Since each Mass is of infinite value, requesting only several Masses is of tremendous benefit for the person prayed for as well as for the family knowing that their intention is joined with the prayer of the Church. (Please read the complete Mass Intention Policy on the reverse side.)

There are times that so many Masses are requested for one intention that make it difficult for others to have Masses for their loved ones, especially at the time of their deaths. The Church envisions that for each Mass there is one intention. We at JGS and other area churches need to return to the norms of the Church and diocesan policy while continuing to pray for and memorialize or honor our loved ones. Here are the most common ways:

- **Gift to the JGS Memorial Fund** (donations help with cost of items needed at Mass, such as vestments, altar cloths, sacred vessels, etc.) (Memorial over \$100 will be published in our bulletin)
- **Flower Arrangements at the Altar** can be placed in Honor or Memory of a person (\$35 donation, with the Memorial published in our bulletin)
- **Sanctuary Candle in the Cathedral** (\$20 donation, and Memorial published in our Bulletin)
- **JGS Building Fund** (all gifts help with the maintenance church facilities and grounds)
- **Student Scholarship Fund** (memorials help our students whose families need some tuition assistance)
- or any combination of the above

Note: notification of your gift will be mailed to the family of the one memorialized.

FYI: Mass Intentions are regulated by universal Church Law (canon law) and diocesan policy. When I arrived here I immediately noticed that a number of the churches in the Eastern Deanery, including JGS, are not in compliance with the norms of the Church which allow for one intention per Mass, with the exception of the possibility of two Masses in a given parish for Collective Mass intentions. Plus one Mass each Day of Obligation must be offered for the People of the Parish. Please read the reverse side.

Note: The guidelines on the reverse side will not affect the Mass Intentions already promised to anyone. *If you have any questions regarding Mass Intentions and Memorials, please, call the church office.*

Yours faithfully,



Fr. Peter B. Mangum

Mass Intentions & Mass Offerings at the Jesus the Good Shepherd Church, Monroe (8/23)

Every Mass is a wonderful gift of God to us. It is the center of the Church's life, "the source and summit of the Christian life" because, in the celebration of the Mass, we are brought back to Jesus' Last Supper, the first Mass celebrated. We consciously recall the love of God poured out for us in the life, death and resurrection of His only Son, Jesus Christ. At each Mass, all the intentions of all God's people, both living and dead, are included. Yet, "in the established tradition of the Church, the faithful, moved by an ecclesial and religious sense, join to the Eucharistic sacrifice a kind of sacrifice of their own, as a way of taking part more intensely. They thus do their share to provide for the Church's needs, especially the support of its ministers..." (Pope Paul VI, *motu proprio "Firma in Traditione"*)

This Policy for Mass Intentions is issued so that this parish's practice of Mass Intentions and Mass Offerings will be in conformity with the universal law of the Church and the "General Policy for Mass Intentions" of the Diocese of Shreveport. Though no policy can fully address all the spiritual, theological and practical issues associated with Mass Intentions and Mass Offerings, the following will regulate all Mass Intentions requested at Jesus the Good Shepherd Church:

1. Anyone may request a Mass Intention for:

- a person who is living,
- a person who is deceased,
- members of a given family (not all names will be listed or mentioned from the altar),
- a special intention appropriate to the celebration of the Eucharist, e.g., World Peace, Vocations, Respect for Life, etc.

2. The Church allows only one intention per Mass. In each parish, however, one or two Masses per week may have Collective Mass Intentions. The faithful are free to combine their intentions and offerings for the celebration of a single Mass, as long as they have been previously informed and have freely consented to combining their intention and offering with others in a single offering of Mass. The Collective Mass Intentions also accommodate the immediate needs that come up for which a person wishes to request a Mass Intention, for example, the death of a loved one, or an impending surgery, etc. At Jesus the Good Shepherd Church, the Masses with Collective Mass Intentions are normally the Saturday evening Mass and the 5:30 pm Tuesday Mass.

3. At Jesus the Good Shepherd Church many people request Mass Intentions. Therefore, when requesting intentions, an individual can request a **maximum of twelve** (12) Masses per calendar year per intention, four of which may be requested for specific dates for any particular person or need per calendar year. If the specific date and time is already taken, a different time must be chosen. The other Mass Intentions will be scheduled based on the needs of the parish and may be included with Collective Mass Intentions.

A total of forty (40) Masses may be requested for a person, living or deceased, in a calendar year. Additional Mass intentions and their offerings may be sent to a priest of another parish of the diocese or outside the diocese who will be able to satisfy the request in a timely manner.

4. A Mass Intention can only be requested for a Mass that will be celebrated within twelve (12) months from the date of the request.

5. Mass Intentions are filled on a first come first served basis.

6. The date of a Mass Intention is subject to change.

7. One Mass Intention per week may be requested for the same intention and will be scheduled if available.

8. As per diocesan policy: The suggested offering is \$5.00 per Mass. A Mass Offering may be more than the suggested offering and it may be less, if the person requesting the Mass is not in the financial position to make the customary Mass Offering.

9. Mass Intentions (scheduled at least three weeks before the Mass) are usually published in our bulletin.

10. Though the Mass Intention need not be announced at the Mass, the priest will announce, if possible, the Intention within the context of that Mass.

11. The one requesting the Mass Intention may request that a card be sent to notify a person that the Intention has been requested and the date and time of the Mass (one card per intention).

12. The name of the person(s) requesting the Mass is not listed in the bulletin or announced at Mass.