

Divine Mercy Parish Mass Intention Policy

One of the greatest acts of charity is to pray for the living and the dead. The greatest and most powerful prayer we have is the Mass, since the fruits of the Mass are the very fruits of Jesus' redemption. For that reason, all are encouraged to have Mass offered for loved ones who have died, or even for the living who have some need. This is an ancient Catholic practice, and all are encouraged to take it up.

In parish, there are many requests for scheduling such Mass intentions. The following policies are now being implemented in order to accommodate the numerous Mass requests in a reasonable and fair manner.

In order to give the opportunity for all parishioners to schedule a Mass intention for their loved ones and to accommodate recently deceased individuals, the Mass Intention book will open for the current calendar year only. Mass intentions **may not be scheduled for more than one year in advance.** The calendar for the next year will be opened in November each year.

Guidelines for Mass Intentions

1. Universal Church discipline as contained in the Code of Canon Law [canons ~45 - 958] of the 1983 Code of Canon Law strictly regulates the offerings made for the celebration of Mass.
2. Canon Law does not permit us to keep Mass intentions for only those Masses that can be celebrated by our priests within one calendar year. Consequently, some intentions may have to be sent to the Diocese for distribution to other priests who will be able to celebrate those Masses.
3. All Mass intentions may be requested for a Mass for: a deceased loved one, a living person who is sick or suffering, a living person who is celebrating a birthday, anniversary or other special moment in their life; in thanksgiving to God (including the Lord Jesus or the Holy Spirit), in thanksgiving for a prayer from a Blessed or a Saint, or for a prayer intention (so long as the intent does not contradict Church teaching).
4. A Mass intention may not be requested for a prayer intention that contradicts Catholic moral doctrine.
5. Each intention is limited to either one name or one group. Please be sure to indicate if the person for whom the Mass is requested is living or dead.
6. A maximum of six (6) intentions per year from anyone individual may be scheduled at the parish with no more than two (2) scheduled for a weekend Mass.
7. Because we are unable to predict how many intentions we will receive in any given year, we may find it necessary to limit the number of intentions we can accept from any one person or for any one intention if we have an excess amount of intentions requests some may be sent to the Diocese to be said.

8. Requests will be honored on a first-come, first serve basis in the order in which the request is received at the Parish Office.

9. A \$5 stipend, as determined by diocesan policy, is to accompany each Mass request. Payment is required at time of placing Mass Intentions by either check or cash. Intentions will not be recorded until the stipend is received. Canon Law requires that all stipends taken for Mass Intentions be said for the intention as designated.

10. Requests for Mass Intentions can be mailed to Divine Mercy Parish 502 West Mt. Pleasant St., West Burlington, Iowa 52655 or dropped in collection at Mass or in the foyer of the office. Have the form completed before coming to the office, with dates you want the Mass said. Completed forms with stipend payment may be dropped off at the office. (Please make your Mass Intension for a specific date)

11. Please note that Mass intentions may be requested for Sundays, most holidays and Weekdays throughout the year. Mass intentions cannot be scheduled for the Triduum: Holy Thursday, Good Friday or Holy Saturday, All Souls, Christmas and Easter. These Mass intentions will be for the general intentions of our priests and parishioners. One Mass every Sunday must also be scheduled for the intentions of our parishioners known as Pro Populo (For the People) as required by Canon Law. This Mass is to be celebrated by the Pastor. Scheduling of multiple 'stipend' intentions for one Mass is prohibited by Canon Law.

12. Mass requests will be granted as close to the requested date, time and church as possible. If it is not possible to comply with the primary request, the next closest date, time and church will be scheduled.

13. The schedule of Mass intentions is subject to change according to the Mass schedule and there is no promise that they will be said on the scheduled day due to priest illness, schedule change, vacations, etc. Every attempt will be made to contact the concerned parties ahead of time but that is not always possible.