

# Father's Notes

February 16, 2025

Last week, I wrote about Mass intentions, something we do, as a loving response for others. I quoted the words of Saint John Paul II: “*In the celebration of the Eucharistic Sacrifice...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*” (Ecclesia de Eucharistia, 43). I want to continue on this topic from last week, including a few guidelines from Canon Law (CIC).

But I first want to make a distinction between *Mass Intentions* and the *Prayers of the Faithful*. It has been the custom at both St. Thomas and St. Philomena to include in the Prayers of the Faithful, the names of those who are ill and those who are deceased. To be clear, while these prayers offered are beautiful, and we will continue to do them, they are different than the Mass Intention. So, in addition to what I offered in last week's Father's Note, I want to give a little more information.

First, per Canon Law, for a given Mass, there should be only one person, family or group as the Mass intention (not multiple persons for a single Mass). An exception could be multiple people if there is a connection, such as the people of a given city or country after a natural disaster, or *the deceased members of the O'Brien family*.

Secondly, also per Canon Law, on every Sunday and Holy Day there must be one *Misa Pro Populo*—meaning, Mass offered specifically for the people of our respective parish(es) - (CIC, 388 and 534). This can include the vigil Mass. Aside from the one MPP, the other Sunday (and Holy Day) Masses are open for your intentions.

This means that in a regular week, if we ensure that there is a Misa Pro Populo for each parish, we still have 6 Masses at St. Thomas and 9 Masses at St. Philomena that are open for your intentions. All the above pertains to both our English and Spanish Masses.

I realize that there may be specific dates you desire to have a Mass offered, such as anniversaries of death. Please request this Mass offering well in advance. We'll do our best, but understand, we cannot always accommodate a specific date or your preferred Mass time.

Another thing that is helpful to consider is that while we encourage you to have Masses offered for the causes of your heart, please understand that if you present many requests for Mass intentions, we will likely have to spread them out over a longer span of time, to help ensure that other people can also have Masses offered for their intentions.



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+ St. Philomena Parish & School (Des Moines, WA)

+ St. Thomas Parish (Tukwila, WA)