



Mass Offerings

A. General Information

A Mass offering is a monetary contribution given to a priest in connection with a request for the celebration of Mass for an intention of the donor. Separate Masses are to be offered for each intention for which an offering has been made and accepted, however small. Following the strict regulations for collective intentions described below, Mass may be offered for the intentions of more than one donor.

The offerings must not pass through the parish books but must be given directly to the priest who is offering the Mass.

B. Mass Offering Policy

All Mass offerings must be recorded in a special register dedicated for that purpose that includes space for the number of Masses requested, the intentions, and the offerings made, with space for the priest to sign once the Mass has been offered (Code of Canon Law, cc. 955 §4, 958 §1).

The current customary offering is \$10, and no larger sum may be requested, although a greater voluntary offering may be accepted, or even a lesser one (c. 952 §1).

Priests are urged to celebrate Mass for the intentions of the faithful, especially those in need, even if they do not receive an offering (c. 945 §2).

When a priest celebrates more than one Mass on the same day, he may apply an intention for each Mass celebrated, but he may retain only one offering for himself. The other Mass offerings are to be remitted to the Chancery Office where they will be credited to the Vocations Fund. On Christmas Day, a priest who celebrates more than one Mass (up to three Masses) may retain the offering for each Mass celebrated (c. 951 §1).

In the case of concelebration, a priest may accept an offering if the Mass is the only Mass offered by the priest or if it is his first Mass of the day. A priest who concelebrates a second Mass on the same day may not accept another Mass offering, even for the Vocations Fund (c. 951 §2).

A priest may only accept Mass offerings that can be satisfied within one year (c. 953). Surplus Mass offerings should be sent to the Chancery Office where they will be distributed to priests who are in need.

Separate Masses must be applied for the intentions of those for whom an individual offering, even if small, has been made and accepted (c. 948), except in the case of a collective intention as described below.

Donors must be clearly informed and freely consent before a priest can combine their offerings in a collective intention, which is not to occur more than twice a week. The celebrant may keep only the customary offering for one Mass (i.e. \$10). The remaining offerings are to be forwarded to the Chancery Office where they will be credited to the Vocations Fund (c. 951 §1; cf. Congregation for the Clergy, Decree *Mos iugiter*).



When a Mass offering is made by cheque, it is to be made payable to the priest, not the parish.

When it is inconvenient to ask a parishioner to replace a cheque for Mass offerings payable in error to the parish, it may be “cashed” out of the loose collection at the discretion of the pastor as long as it does not exceed \$100. Cheques that were made payable to the parish for Mass offerings are not donations, so these cheques should not be recorded for tax receipt purposes.

Mass intentions may be published in the parish bulletin at the discretion of the pastor.

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**The following policy is hereby superseded:
*Mass Offerings, effective February 17, 2011.***