

## **What does it mean to have a Mass “offered” for someone?**

Any individual may ask a priest to offer a Mass for several reasons: for example, in thanksgiving, for the intentions of another person (such as on a birthday), or, as is most common, for the repose of the soul of someone who has died. One must never forget the infinite graces that flow from the Sacrifice of the Mass which benefit one’s soul.

When a priest offers Holy Mass, he has three aims in mind: First, to offer the Mass reverently and validly in accord with the norms of the Church. Second, to offer the Mass in union with the whole Church and for the good of the whole Church. Third, to offer the Mass for a particular intention, such as the repose of the soul of someone who has died. Therefore, the effects of the Mass bring certain benefits or fruits. The general fruits of the Mass are the effects upon the whole Church – to the living faithful as well as the poor souls in purgatory. For this reason, in the Canon of the Mass (the Eucharistic Prayer), a special mention is made for both the living and the dead. The special ministerial fruits of the Mass are applied to the particular intention of the Mass, i.e. “for whom this Mass is offered.” The intention of the Mass is also determined by various factors: The Church may stipulate the particular intention; for example, all pastors are required to offer one Mass on Sunday for the intentions of the living and deceased parishioners of a parish. A priest may also have his own particular intention in offering a Mass, such as the repose of the soul of his parents. Finally, a person may ask a priest to offer a Mass for a particular intention. In this case, it is customary to give an offering of \$10 to the priest who is celebrating the Mass. In so doing, the Faithful have the privilege of joining their own sacrifice to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass thereby obtaining an even greater abundance of spiritual fruit.

When we face the death of someone, even a person who is not Catholic, to have a Mass offered for the repose of his soul and to offer our prayers are more beneficial and comforting than any other sympathy card or bouquet of flowers. To have a Mass offered on the occasion of a birthday, anniversary or special need is appropriate, beneficial and appreciated.

Contact the parish office to have a Mass offered for your chosen intention, submit an intention using the QR code, or drop an envelope into the collection basket labeled “Mass Intention.” If an offering is being given, please complete this at the time of the request so that accurate records can be maintained and the offering is specifically attached to the intended Mass.

(Please note the intention or name of the individual you would like a Mass said for, whether they are living or deceased, and a preferred date if you have one in mind. Please give us two weeks advance notice. If we are unable to have a mass said on the date requested, please know we will choose the next available date.)



**You can use this QR Code to go directly to the WeShare/OnlineGiving Mass Intention Form.**

# Congratulations!

The St. Thomas the Apostle parish community would like to congratulate these young ladies and gentleman on receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.

- Margaret Abernathy
- Mason Boggan
- Brianna Petrie
- Gracie Petrie
- Sarah Kate Williams
- Emily Williamson



Thank you to all those who gave of their time and culinary skills to help with the reception making it a joyous edition to our sacramental celebration.