



St. Regis Catholic Mission

Established 1752



What are the Special Mass Intentions?

Whenever a priest celebrates a Mass, he has at least two intentions. The first intention is to celebrate the Mass according to what the Church does. **The second is to apply the grace of that Mass towards a specific need, whether it be a person(s), living or dead, baptized or not, or a special need.**

As to the first intention, a priest may find it helpful to pray the traditional prayer while he is vesting: "My purpose is to celebrate Mass and to make present the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the rite of the holy Roman Church to the praise of our all-powerful God and all his assembly in the glory of heaven, for my good and the good of all his pilgrim Church on earth, and for all who have asked me to pray for them in general and in particular, and for the good of the holy Roman Church. May the almighty and merciful Lord grant us joy and peace, amendment of life, room for true repentance, the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit, and perseverance in good works. Amen."

As to the second intention, commonly called "the intention of the Mass" and most likely what you want to know about, that intention will be announced in the Church bulletin at least one week before, and then it is usually announced out loud at Mass. Often the Mass intention is requested by a parishioner for the repose of the soul of a loved one. When a parishioner requests that a Mass be offered for a specific intention, and the priest agrees to celebrate the Mass for that intention, then the priest has a most serious obligation to offer the Mass for that intention

Comments from Rev. Francis J. Hoffman, JCD (Fr. Rocky) is Executive Director of Relevant Radio. Ordained as a priest for Opus Dei in 1992 by Blessed John Paul II, he holds a doctorate in Canon Law from the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross, an MBA from the University of Notre Dame, and a BA in History from Northwestern University.