Saint Paul Parish

Opening of the 2027 Mass Book

It's fall again! That means we will be opening our 2027 Mass Book already. The Mass Book will operate similarly to last year due to our reduction in Masses overall and the high volume of Masses that we book each year. We want to thank our parishioners for their kindness and understanding this past year with the new and understandably confusing schedule.

A few reminders: our book opens once every 3 months for the following 3 months. Once a 3 month quarter opens, it never "closes". We highly recommend that you call or come in to the Parish Office on the day the Mass Book opens for a particular quarter so that you have the best chance possible to get the Mass you desire to book. We are open Monday-Friday 9AM-4PM.

One change this year: We will be opening the book up **one** time for 1st anniversary remembrances and milestone wedding anniversary Masses. You may remember last year that each quarter began with one week reserved to book these Masses. To make the process less confusing, we will take those Masses *once*, **the first 15 days of October.** After this, the 3 month quarters will open for all Masses beginning with October 15th, then January 15th, and so on.

Below is a schedule of this year's process.

October 1st

- **ONLY 1st Anniversary Remembrance Masses and milestone Wedding Anniversaries open up. These are not limited to the quarterly schedule, and can be booked for <u>any month.</u>**

October 15th MASSES CAN BE BOOKED FOR JANUARY – MARCH 2027

January 15th MASSES CAN BE BOOKED FOR APRIL – JUNE 2027

April 15th MASSES CAN BE BOOKED FOR JULY – SEPTEMBER 2027

July 15th MASSES CAN BE BOOKED FOR OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2027

October 1st 2027

2028 BOOK OPENS…

Remember, once January – March is open this October 15th 2026, you may book a Mass for that 3 month period at any time. This means, if January rolls around and you need a Mass in March, you're welcome to book with us pending availability.

<u>Restrictions on Mass Quantity</u>

We will continue to enforce the same restrictions as last year. Each parishioner may book up to 4 Masses quarterly. Out of the 4, 3 may be week day Masses and 1 may be a weekend Mass.

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Canon Law on Collective Intentions

The Vatican Dicastery states that all donors whose offerings are to be included in a collective intention must clearly be formed in advance. The Donor must give *explicit*, *free* consent. The Church reaffirms that the offering for a Mass intention must never be treated like a commercial transaction. Using Mass intentions/offerings in ways that resemble buying/selling spiritual favors (simony) is strictly forbidden. So with this in mind, the Archdiocesan Policy states that churches can only hold one Mass a week that takes multiple intentions. For our Parish, this day will be Thursdays at 5 pm. We recognize that there are far fewer Masses available than in the past. Please keep in mind that all parishes are facing the same challenges with the shortage of priests, so your patience is much appreciated. That being said, don't forget our numerous other options available to you, all of which include having your intention listed in the bulletin as we do with Masses:

- Private Masses
    - Private Masses will be in the bulletin the date of your choosing, but they will not necessarily be said on that date. Our friars say these Masses alone in their friary so **no one can attend.**
- Blessed Mother Candles and Sanctuary Candles
    - These candles burn for one full week. Blessed Mother Candles burn by the Blessed Virgin Mary's statue, and Sanctuary Candles burn by the Tabernacle.
- St. Clare/Bread for the Poor
- Gift of Bread or Gift of Wine

Usual offering:

All Masses (including private Masses) no matter the day are now $15 due to the Archdiocesan mandate effective as of January 2026. The usual offerings for Candles and Gifts of Bread or Wine are $15, and St. Clare/Bread for the Poor is $20.

If you have any questions regarding the opening of the 2027 Mass Book, feel free to call the Parish Office at 860-828-0331 and our Office Administrator Erika, Administrative Assistant Cheryl, or volunteers Roz and Nancy will be happy to assist you! God bless!