

SAINT ELIZABETH ANN SETON PARISH
MASS SCHEDULING GUIDELINES
Effective November of 2018

Dear Parishioners:

The scheduling of Mass intentions is often a problem in most parishes. With the lessening number of Masses because of the dwindling number of priests, there are only so many intentions that can be scheduled. This policy is meant to address those issues.

AN INTRODUCTION

There are only seven Masses per week usually scheduled at Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Church – three weekend Masses and four weekdays (no Masses on Wednesday or Saturday mornings). That totals 365 Masses. We subtract 14 intentions from that amount because, out of fairness, we schedule no specific intentions on Christmas, Easter, Mother’s Day, Father’s Day and All Souls Day. Those Masses are for everyone in the parish and their loved ones. So that leaves 351 Masses for intentions per year. Subtract from that the “memorial Mass” offered by the parish for all those buried from our parish during the year, and we lose a number more possibilities.

We also have people who remember their loved ones with a special intention at Mass. Often they schedule four, five, six or more per year for any one person. Then we have each member of a family scheduling their Mass for the person they love. We also have those who request the same Sunday Masses each time. I hope that you see the scheduling problem.

(Please see other side for Mass policy)

THE POLICY

The 2019 Mass book will be open for intentions on Monday, November 5, 2018. No intentions for 2019 will be scheduled before that date. They must be submitted in writing (using the blue forms provided) with the Intention (for whom), given by whom, the preferred date, and the usual offering of \$10.00 (which must be included). They will be listed as they are received – first come, first served, and will be scheduled accordingly. No intention by phone or word of mouth will be accepted – to maintain accuracy.

There will only be one intention scheduled for an individual on a Saturday/Sunday if desired, the others must be weekdays. A limit of four Masses for any one person will be scheduled. Other Mass intentions will be accepted but NOT scheduled. They will be placed in “reserve” as fill ins or to be sent to the retired priests to be said in a timely fashion. We ask families to work together so that no more than four Masses are scheduled for any one individual. For example, Tom Jones has twelve siblings who each want a Mass – only four for Tom can be scheduled.

Another problem is the scheduling of Masses after a funeral by parishioners before the family has had an opportunity to schedule their Masses. Masses for a recently deceased person will be received but not scheduled until after the families have done so, out of fairness to the family of the deceased. The family may schedule four Masses in the first year after death. As mentioned above, the parish will schedule an additional memorial Mass for a parishioner buried from our parish as an act of kindness and mercy.

These policies are an attempt to provide an orderly and FAIR way of dealing with a complex problem. Thank you for your patience and understanding.