



*Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel*  
*627 East 187<sup>th</sup> Street*  
*Bronx, New York 10458*  
*718.295.3770*

**FROM THE DESK OF FATHER JOSÉ FÉLIX**

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Mass Intentions

Sometimes people come to me and ask, how much is the cost for a Mass? Really this is a wrong question, or better, it is not adequately formulated. There is no way we could pay money for a Mass; the value of the Body and Blood of Christ can't be measured.

The right question should be: how much do I need to offer to have a Mass offered for a specific intention? It has been the tradition of the Church that the people could ask the priest to offer the Mass for a specific intention, a person who died, or any other intention. Those petitions often come with a voluntary donation, but even if you don't donate, you could ask for a Mass to be celebrated for an intention.

Each priest, in each Mass, has what we call the "first intention," that coincides with what someone has asked to pray, and possibly offering an donation. But the priest can also have other intentions, that we called "second intentions."

The first intention of a Mass could be for one person who is dead or alive, for the members of a family, for a sick person, in thanksgiving...

Often the people that offered the Mass would like to be present when the Mass is celebrated, but obviously, it is not necessary. The important thing is for the priest to say the Mass. Should the priest announce publicly the intention for each Mass? While it is not obligatory or necessary, usually at the beginning of the Mass we announce the intention for that Mass, but if for whatever reason we don't do it or we forgot to do it, it doesn't matter... again the important thing is the intention of the priest.

In the Parish office, we have a book where we keep a record of the requested Masses and when they are celebrated. If you want a Mass to be celebrated for a specific intention, I invite you to come to the office.

Finally, in each Parish, at least one Mass a week should be celebrated for all the parishioners. So don't worry... you are covered!

**God bless,**  
*Father José Félix*