

PERMISSION FOR MASS OFFERING REALLOCATION

Recognizing my right to receive and retain, and my obligation to fulfill and account for individual Mass offerings in accord with Canons 945-956, 958, and in keeping with the particular law of the Province of Dubuque in Iowa and the guidelines of the Diocese of Des Moines,

I, _____,
(Print Name of Priest)

do hereby freely and voluntarily agree to surrender all monetary offerings

for Mass intentions to _____
(Name of Parish/Institution)

for the fiscal year of July 1, 20____ through June 30, 20____,

which will be replaced by an additional taxable allowance of \$250.00 per month

from _____.
(Name of Parish/Institution)

(Signature of Priest)

(Date)

(Signature of Trustee or Finance Council Chair)

(Date)

NB: If this option is taken, this form should be renewed on an annual basis in line with the fiscal year parish/institutional budgeting.

DIOCESE OF DES MOINES
MASS STIPENDS/OFFERINGS POLICY

The Mass stipend is a free will offering (not required) for a particular Mass intention given to a priest. According to Canon Law, the offering is to be retained by the priest who offers the Mass.

As made effective on January 1, 2026 by Decree of The Metropolitan of The Province Of Dubuque In Iowa, *On The Offerings For And On The Intentions Of The Holy Masses* on (November 19, 2025), for the entire Province of Dubuque in Iowa, any new offering/stipend to be given for the celebration and application of Mass is set at \$10.00.

Effective July 1, 2026, within the Diocese of Des Moines, any actively assigned priest may voluntarily elect to take a set amount of \$250 per month and remit all the Mass offerings to the parish/institution he serves.

Notations:

1. The \$250.00 a month option only applies to active priests assigned within the Diocese of Des Moines.
2. This option is to be utilized and renewed on an annual basis in line with the fiscal year parish/institutional budgeting.
3. In either option, these Mass offerings are to be included in taxable wages.
4. Retired and visiting priests are entitled to retain the individual Mass offerings whatever the amount but are not eligible for the \$250.00 monthly option.

CANON LAW: THE OFFERING GIVEN FOR THE CELEBRATION OF MASS

Can. 534 (Missa Pro Propolo) §1. After a pastor has taken possession of his parish, he is obliged to apply a Mass for the people entrusted to him on each Sunday and holy day of obligation in his diocese. If he is legitimately impeded from this celebration, however, he is to apply it on the same days through another or on other days himself.

§2. A pastor who has the care of several parishes is bound to apply only one Mass for the entire people entrusted to him on the days mentioned in §1.

§3. A pastor who has not satisfied the obligation mentioned in §§1 and 2 is to apply as soon as possible as many Masses for the people as he has omitted.

Can. 945 §1. In accord with the approved practice of the Church, any priest celebrating or concelebrating is permitted to receive an offering to apply the Mass for a specific intention.

§2. It is recommended earnestly to priests that they celebrate Mass for the intention of the Christian faithful, especially the needy, even if they have not received an offering.

Can. 946 The Christian faithful who give an offering to apply the Mass for their intention contribute to the good of the Church and by that offering share its concern to support its ministers and works.

Can. 947 Any appearance of trafficking or trading is to be excluded entirely from the offering for Masses.

Can. 948 Separate Masses are to be applied for the intentions of those for whom a single offering, although small, has been given and accepted.

Can. 949 A person obliged to celebrate and apply Mass for the intention of those who gave an offering is bound by the obligation even if the offerings received have been lost through no fault of his own.

Can. 950 If a sum of money is offered for the application of Masses without an indication of the number of Masses to be celebrated, the number is to be computed on the basis of the offering established in the place where the donor resides, unless the intention of the donor must be presumed legitimately to have been different.

Can. 951 §1. A priest who celebrates several Masses on the same day can apply each to the intention for which the offering was given, but subject to the rule that, except on Christmas, he is to keep the offering for only one Mass and transfer the others to the purposes prescribed by the ordinary, while allowing for some recompense by reason of an extrinsic title.

§2. A priest who concelebrates a second Mass on the same day cannot accept an offering for it under any title.

Can. 952 §1. It is for the provincial council or a meeting of the bishops of the province to define by decree for the entire province the offering to be given for the celebration and application of Mass, and a priest is not permitted to seek a larger sum. Nevertheless, he is permitted to accept for the application of a Mass a voluntary offering which is larger or even smaller than the one defined.

§2. Where there is no such decree, the custom in force in the diocese is to be observed.

§3. Members of all religious institutes must also observe the same decree or local custom mentioned in §§1 and 2.

Can. 953 No one is permitted to accept more offerings for Masses to be applied by himself than he can satisfy within a year.

Can. 954 If in certain churches or oratories more Masses are asked to be celebrated than can be celebrated there, it is permitted for them to be celebrated elsewhere unless the donors have expressly indicated a contrary intention.

Can. 955 **§1.** A person who intends to entrust to others the celebration of Masses to be applied is to entrust their celebration as soon as possible to priests acceptable to him, provided that he is certain that they are above suspicion. He must transfer the entire offering received unless it is certain that the excess over the sum fixed in the diocese was given for him personally. He is also obliged to see to the celebration of the Masses until he learns that the obligation has been accepted and the offering received.

§2. The time within which Masses must be celebrated begins on the day the priest who is to celebrate them received them unless it is otherwise evident.

§3. Those who entrust to others Masses to be celebrated are to record in a book without delay both the Masses which they received and those which they transferred to others, as well as their offerings.

§4. Every priest must note accurately the Masses which he accepted to celebrate and those which he has satisfied.

Can. 956 Each and every administrator of pious causes or those obliged in any way to see to the celebration of Masses, whether clerics or laity, are to hand over to their ordinaries according to the method defined by the latter the Mass obligations which have not been satisfied within a year.

Can. 957 The duty and right of exercising vigilance that Mass obligations are fulfilled belong to the local ordinary in churches of secular clergy and to the superiors in churches of religious institutes or societies of apostolic life.

Can. 958 **§1.** The pastor and the rector of a church or other pious place which regularly receives offerings for Masses are to have a special book in which they note accurately the number of Masses to be celebrated, the intention, the offering given, and their celebration.

§2. The ordinary is obliged to examine these books each year either personally or through others.