

MASS INTENTIONS EXPLAINED

What the “offering” means

The offering connected to a Mass intention, commonly referred to as a “stipend,” is a longstanding freewill contribution that supports the priest and the parish. It is never a payment for grace and does not affect whether a Mass can be requested. This custom has roots in the earliest Christian communities, where the faithful supported their ministers and the celebration of the Eucharist.

Today, the offering remains a simple gesture of support that helps sustain parish life. It is a practical expression of gratitude, not a requirement for the spiritual reality of the intention. The intention itself is spiritual; the offering is a sign of participation in the Church’s prayer.

“I ask that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone.”

1 Timothy 2:1.

