



ARCHDIOCESE
OF NEW YORK

SAFEGUARDING THE PARISH MASS STIPEND ACCOUNT

We priests have a heavy responsibility to properly maintain the parish stipend account.

- We owe it to our people to satisfy Mass intentions as expeditiously as possible, usually within one year.
- Since this is an official parish account which is used for the \$15 stipend attached to a Mass intention, it must be available for audit upon request. It can be used for nothing more.
- Donations for baptisms, weddings and funerals perquisites are deposited in the parish checking account #5104.
- Whenever a priest celebrates more than one Mass on a particular day, he may retain for personal use only one stipend. Any stipends which were accepted for the celebration of additional Masses must be disposed of in accord with archdiocesan policy (c. 951) and sent to St. Joseph's Seminary.
- In addition, every pastor is mandated to offer the Mass for the people of his parish on Sundays and holy days. This *Missa pro populo* is the personal obligation of the pastor. He may delegate it to a visiting priest or a parochial vicar; then, in justice, tender the current stipend of \$15 to the priest satisfying the Mass.
- Remember also to maintain a register of announced Masses in the parish office; and a personal Mass stipend book for the unannounced requests you receive.