

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

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DIOCESE OF GRAND FALLS

April 5, 2023

To All Priests and Pastoral Leaders Diocese of Grand Falls

Dear Friends,

As a result of our discussion on Mass Stipends during our recent meeting of the Council of Pastoral Leaders, I have been asked to clarify our Diocesan Policy regarding Stipends for Baptisms, Weddings, and Funerals. Please note that these policies are in our Diocesan Policy Manual and each of you should review this Manual regularly.

General Principles for Stipends (Stole Fees)

- Any offerings received on the occasion of the celebration of sacraments or sacramentals shall be channeled into the operating account of the parish or into another fund decided by the pastor in consultation with the finance committee.
- When the donor clearly intends the offering for the person of the minister, that portion in excess of the “approved amount” belongs to the person of the minister. If the donor’s intention is doubtful, that portion given in excess of the “approved amount” belongs to the parish treasury.

Baptisms and Marriages:

The Stipend for our diocese shall be:

- \$25 on the occasion of baptisms.
- \$200 on the occasion of marriages; if the marriage is witnessed by a person who is not receiving a regular diocesan salary, that person will receive \$50 from the parish.

Funerals:

- The fee for funerals is governed by the diocesan policy on cemeteries. This fee covers heating of the church, cemetery upkeep, etc., but does not include a stipend for the celebrant, organist, servers, etc.
- The current fee for funerals is \$200.00 which shall be put in the Operating Account of the Parish.
- If the wake takes place in the church, an additional fee of \$100.00 per day will be charged. No person will be denied a funeral and/or burial because of an inability to pay the fees.
- Stipends for Organist (Music Ministry) should be arranged between the family (Funeral Home) and the Organist.
- When the donor clearly intends the offering for the person of the minister, that portion in excess of the “approved amount” belongs to the person of the minister. If the donor’s intention is doubtful, that portion given in excess of the “approved amount” belongs to the parish treasury.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I remain

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Anthony Daniels". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a cross at the beginning.

Most Reverend R. Anthony Daniels
Bishop of Grand Falls.