Step-by-Step Guide: Organizing a Month's-Mind Intention at Your Parish (Catholic Guide)

A **Month's-Mind Mass** is celebrated about one month after a loved one's passing. It is a traditional Catholic practice especially important in Vietnamese and Hispanic Catholic communities, marking the ongoing prayers for the soul of the deceased and offering comfort to the family.

1. Contact the Parish Office (4 Weeks Before)

- Call or visit your parish office.

- Request a **Mass Intention** for your loved one on or near the 30-day anniversary.

- Provide the deceased's full name, date of death, and your family contact information.

- Ask about available Mass times and whether your family can bring up gifts, read intentions, or light a memorial candle.

2. Confirm Liturgical Details (2–3 Weeks Before)

- Meet briefly with the parish secretary or priest to confirm:

    - Date, time, and type of Mass (weekday or Sunday).

    - Whether a special **mention in the Prayers of the Faithful** will be included.

    - Any parish customs for Month's-Mind observances (flowers, altar candles, procession, incense).

- Ask about options for bilingual or multicultural elements if your family requests it.

3. Invite Family & Friends (2 Weeks Before)

- Call, text, or send invitations to family and close friends.

- Share the Mass date and time clearly.

- Encourage relatives to bring a photo, rosary, or small offering if culturally appropriate.

- Let the extended family know if there will be a small gathering or meal afterward.

4. Prepare Participation Roles (1 Week Before)

- Confirm with the parish if family members can:

    - Bring up the gifts (bread and wine).

    - Do a reading or lead the Responsorial Psalm.

    - Offer a brief remembrance or prayer of thanksgiving.

- Select and prepare those family members ahead of time.

5. Day of the Mass

- Arrive at least **15–20 minutes early** to greet the priest and confirm details.

- Provide the sacristan with your loved one's name for correct pronunciation.

- Sit together as a family, near the front if possible.

- Participate in the offertory, prayers, and communion with reverence.

6. After the Mass

- Thank the priest and parish staff for their support.

- Consider hosting a small gathering (meal, coffee, or simple snacks) with family and friends to share memories and continue support.

- If desired, make a **memorial donation** to the parish or another meaningful cause in your loved one's name.

7. Ongoing Remembrance

- Mark the **one-year anniversary (Giỗ Đầu / Year's Mind Mass)** on your calendar now.

- Ask your parish about including your loved one in the parish's **Book of Remembrance** or November All Souls' Day liturgy.

Downloadable Checklist

QUICK CHECKLIST

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4 Weeks BEFORE
- [ ] Call parish office to request a Month's-Mind Mass intention.
- [ ] Provide your loved one's name, date of death, and contact info.

2-3 Weeks BEFORE
- [ ] Confirm date, time, and details with priest or parish staff.
- [ ] Ask about including Prayers of the Faithful, candle lighting, or family roles.

2 Weeks BEFORE
- [ ] Invite family and close friends.
- [ ] Share if there will be a gathering afterward.

1 Weeks BEFORE
- [ ] Assign family participation (readings, gifts, prayers).
- [ ] Confirm all details with the parish office.

Day of Mass
- [ ] Arrive early, meet with priest/sacristan.
- [ ] Sit together as a family, participate reverently.

After Mass
- [ ] Thank parish staff.
- [ ] Host a small gathering or meal (optional).
- [ ] Consider a memorial donation in your loved one's name.

Ongoing
- [ ] Mark the 1-year anniversary Mass and All Souls' Day for future remembrance.