

St. Lawrence Church  
Funeral Preparation  
*Words of Remembrance of Faith*

It is becoming more and more customary for the families to request someone to deliver a eulogy at a Funeral Mass. **As Catholics, we do not give eulogies at the Mass; however, Words of Remembrance of Faith may be given.**

Based on the policy by Bishop Matano, it is recommended that the Words of Remembrance of Faith are best given:

1. At the Family Gathering AFTER the funeral Mass.
2. At the Calling Hours.
3. At the cemetery

Bishop Matano established a policy for the Diocese of Rochester that is the policy of St. Lawrence Church. Succinctly, regarding *Words of Remembrance of Faith*:

- Words of Remembrance of Faith are **NOT** eulogies. See reverse side for more detail.
- Words of Remembrance of Faith may be given at the permission of the pastor, however it should not be assumed that they will be allowed.
- The person chosen to speak at the Catholic Mass must be Catholic.
- Only **one** person will speak.
- Another person may stand with the individual delivering the words for moral support.
- The Words must be 2 – 3 minutes in length, 200 to 300 words.
- It must be typed out, not extemporaneous or only bullet pointed!
- The Words of Remembrance of Faith must be pre-approved by the pastor at least 36 to 48 hours before the Funeral Mass. Once approved, they cannot be edited or changed for any reason.
- The Words of Remembrance of Faith must never include off-color language, sexual innuendo, inappropriate stories, or anything disrespectful to the Catholic Christian faith. They must always be within the dignity of the Mass and appropriate for the Church.
- The Words will be delivered at the beginning of the Mass, immediately following the procession and the priest's introduction
- The Words of Remembrance must be focused on the treasured memories of the deceased, their faith, values and spirituality.
- Be aware that if you are going directly to the cemetery, your arrival time at the cemetery is scheduled based on the start time of the Mass. Words of Remembrance are the most significant time variable in potentially arriving late to the cemetery which can impact your arrangements there.

A guiding principle is this: “What do I want our guests at the Funeral Mass to remember as they leave?” Stories about intimacy, alcohol consumption, etc., swearing, sexual innuendo have no place in *Words of Remembrance of Faith*.

We would want these words to ennoble and inspire all present and the loved one remembered.

## **Eulogies are not allowed at a Catholic Mass. This is a policy that is universal, throughout the world.**

Eulogies are biographical and anecdotal. They are best given at the family gathering.

What is the difference?

Examples:

Eulogy                      My grandmother was a wonderful person who was the best cook and baker in the world. She made the best chocolate chip cookies and everyone loved her. She was born in Italy and came to America in 1925. She met Grandpa just before the war and they married when he came home. They had seven children. She loved to sew. She loved to bowl. She loved to gossip on the telephone. We're going to miss her so much.

Words of Remembrance of Faith                      My grandmother was a good person who was filled with faith. Attending Mass every Sunday, and after she retired, every day – she was the model for all of us in living out her faith. She welcomed everyone to her table, even people she didn't know. And many times, if there were leftovers, she brought them to our neighbors who she knew didn't have enough to eat.

Eulogy:                      Grant was a great guy who loved to throw back a few with the guys on Friday nights at The Distillery. He was one hell of a guy (oh, sorry Father). He met Lorraine at a party and knew she was the one. But he never lost his eye for good lookers, if you know what I mean.

Words of Remembrance of Faith                      Grant worked hard to make sure his children were well taken care of and had a good home. Lorraine and he went to Church together with all the kids every Sunday. He was a quiet man who did good things for others. He was a loyal and he was kind.

Please make sure the person writing and delivering the Words of Remembrance of Faith receives this handout and that the Pastor/Deacon have the name, cell phone number, and email of the individual delivering the Words of Remembrance.

If the Words of Remembrance are considered to be too long, inappropriate, or not received in appropriate time – they will not be delivered at the Mass.

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