

OUR LADY OF PEACE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Words of Remembrance Policy and Tips

Thank you for your desire to offer words of remembrance in honor of your departed loved one. Our Parish will be remembering your loved one and friends and family in our prayers as you go through this time of grief. It is our desire to help you to offer a tribute that is fitting to your loved one and that compliments the Funeral Mass which reminds us of the “sure and certain hope” of the resurrection. If you have any questions, please contact our Pastor.

Fr. Joah Ellis

612.824.3455

jellis@olpmn.org

POLICY

- Words of Remembrance often work best at the prayer service or the reception. If either of these take place at the church, a staff person will be happy to assist you with the sound system.
- If words of remembrance are given at the funeral, it happens at the beginning of Mass. The Priest will invite the eulogist forward at the appropriate time.
- The family should let the priest know at the time of the funeral planning if they would like someone to give words of Remembrance.
- **Please keep the words of remembrance 2-3 minutes in length during Mass.** The best words of remembrance focus on the virtues or qualities of a loved one. It should be written out and practiced so that appropriateness and length can be observed. This will contribute to the flow of the service and will leave strong and lasting images in the mind of the assembly. It is also important to remember to be true to the length because musicians often have a limited time to minister at the service, as they have taken up the service often last minute, and our volunteer altar servers have come over from school to assist with the liturgy and need to return.

TIPS

- Ask people who were close to the departed if there's anything they might appreciate hearing.
- Find out when during the service will you be speaking. At the vigil? Before Mass? At Mass? After Mass?
- Remember that your remarks should reflect the sacredness of the event and support the celebration's focus on the Christian message: the good news of resurrection, faith in the promise of eternal life and care for all in need.
- Think about the audience. A smaller gathering may be better served with a more informal style, while a larger one might be reason for a more formal approach.
- Your words are meant to both honor the deceased and to comfort those left behind.
- Stories about the departed's life and activities should be placed within the context of the faith life, goodness and spirituality.
- Offer thanks to God for the deceased's gifts and for the gift of his or her life. Link the person to the good things God provides to all.
- Be brief. A few well-chosen and properly delivered words can have a powerful impact.
- Practice. Read your prepared remarks over and over both out loud and to yourself.
- Use humor, but judiciously. Humor can be a blessing that lifts the human spirit and gives people cause to rejoice. Avoid silliness.