

SAINT CHRISTOPHER CATHOLIC CHURCH

Guidelines for Words of Remembrance at a Funeral Mass 10/2022

A Mass of Christian Burial makes present the hope of eternal life for the soul of the deceased and those who grieve. It is a sacred encounter with the mystery of Christ's suffering, death, and Resurrection.

While we want to remember the life of the deceased at the Funeral Mass, the best times for loved ones to offer eulogies and stories are at the Vigil Service (Wake), the Rite of Committal (Burial), or family gathering.

However, if circumstances necessitate a short reflection to be given at Mass, then Words of Remembrance may be offered to highlight the faith, virtues, and spiritual gifts of the deceased. Resembling a prayer, they should help foster gratitude to God for the special ways in which He blessed the deceased.

If you are considering offering Words of Remembrance at the Funeral Mass, please note the following requirements:

- **Only 1 person is permitted to offer Words of Remembrance.**
- **Reflections must not exceed 1 typed page or 5 minutes in length.**
- **Words should briefly highlight the faith and good deeds of the deceased.**
- **Biographies and life achievements should be avoided and are best to be shared at the vigil service, committal, or family gathering.**
- **Off-color humor, foul language, or unflattering stories are never permitted.**
- **Words of Remembrance must be written and submitted to the pastor for approval at least 24 hours prior to the Funeral Mass. Email Fr. David at fr.david@stchrisparishnh.org or drop off a copy at the parish office. The pastor reserves the right to modify or reject the Words of Remembrance if they are not in harmony with the sacredness of the Funeral Mass.**

Please contact the parish office if we can provide you with any further assistance.