

“Words of Remembrance” during Funeral Mass at St. Mary of the Lake

Please bear in mind that the most appropriate place for a eulogy is at the vigil the evening before, the reception, or the graveside.

The funeral liturgy is a celebration of salvation and mercy, of grace and eternal life. It is not meant to be a commemoration (much less a canonization) of the person who has died. In the words of the Archbishop, “Extended remembering of the deceased often results in forgetting the Lord.”

**EULOGY:**

**The eulogy is not an official part of the Catholic burial rite,** but it is permitted at St. Mary of the Lake under the following circumstances:

It is given after the prelude, before the Liturgy of the Word.

Only one person speaks. If several family members and friends have something to contribute, they should collaborate to compose a eulogy given by the representative chosen by the family.

The eulogy should be no longer than three to five minutes and be in good taste.

Please remember that giving a eulogy for a close relative or friend can be an emotional experience. “Words of Remembrance: should be no more than one typed page. It should concentrate upon the faith life of the loved one, of their service to the faith community.

**The eulogy is not a time to preach, instruct others in Christian living, or even to offer formal prayers. The eulogy is not an opportunity to preach about one’s particular faith and beliefs, call others to conversion, or evangelize.**

Many times, the family member wants to write the eulogy and have the priest deliver it.

The eulogy should be submitted in writing at least 24 hours prior to the funeral. The priest has the right to edit or reject a suggested eulogy.