



## Guidelines for writing Words of Remembrance

For a funeral in the Diocese of Ogdensburg

Please accept the condolences of the clergy, staff, and entire parish family of St. James and St. Hubert on the death of your loved one. If you are reading this, you have either been asked or have asked about sharing words of remembrance (sometimes known as a eulogy) at the funeral. We would like to help answer some of your questions as you consider taking on this task.

*What should I include in my words of remembrance?*

The words should include:

- A welcome and a thank you to all the people who have supported you/the family in your/their time of loss.
- An insight about the faith of your loved one.
- A story that speaks of who your loved one was (while still remembering that you are speaking in the sanctuary of a holy place of worship).
- If there is a meal after the funeral, it would be fitting to welcome them to the reception.

The words of remembrance should:

- Not include off-color stories or use vulgar language.
- Not use phrases that could be insensitive to the reality of grief and to the theological significance of praying for your loved one's salvation. Phrases to refrain from using include: "He's in a better place" or "At least she isn't suffering anymore" or "They are angels now."
- Not include a multiplicity of stories. Please leave most of the stories for the reception where there can be more comfortable give-and-take. Note: if a reception is being held in the parish center after the funeral, we are happy to allow the family to use our microphone system during the luncheon.

*How long should words of remembrance be?*

Words of remembrance will be 3-5 minutes in length. A good guideline would be about 300-500 words, or 1-2 pages of double-spaced text typed in size twelve, Times New Roman font.

One last point: please know that there is no obligation to give words of remembrance at church. While we do allow one representative of the family to speak at church, the preference is for these words to be shared at the funeral home or at the reception to follow. Sometimes it is good to know that you have options.

Finally, if you would like to run a draft or a question by us, please feel free to call or email us at the parish St. James 315-287-0114 [sjcshc@twc.com](mailto:sjcshc@twc.com) or St. Hubert 315-848-3612 [st.huberts.church@gmail.com](mailto:st.huberts.church@gmail.com) You can also try contacting the pastor at [jseymour@rcdony.org](mailto:jseymour@rcdony.org)