



# *Words of Remembrance Guidelines*



If you wish to have someone offer personal remarks about your loved one, you may consider doing this at the Calling Hours at the Funeral Home or at a Reception following the Funeral Mass.

If you decide to have a time of remembrance during the Mass, the following parish guidelines are to be observed and shared with the person offering the Words of Remembrance:

- Takes place at the beginning of the Mass, following the Opening Prayer
- Limited to one person who speaks briefly, no longer than 3-5 minutes. No more than two pages, double-spaced, 14-point font. A copy must be sent to the funeral coordinator 24 hours before the Funeral Mass ([pscounten42@gmail.com](mailto:pscounten42@gmail.com)).
- Focused on the treasured memories of your deceased loved one in a context of faith, values, and spirituality of the deceased.
- The person chosen to speak at the Catholic Mass would preferably be Catholic. If not, we ask that they be familiar with and respectful of Catholic traditions, aware of the Scripture chosen by the family, and focused on the faith of the person being remembered.
- The person offering the Words of Remembrance needs to confer with the family and next of kin about the content (as well as the pastoral staff contact at St. Charles who is coordinating the funeral with the family).
- Words of Remembrance must be scripted and should be rehearsed at home, preferably with a close family member of the deceased. The person asked to speak should feel confident that they can speak without excessive emotion which could make it hard for people to understand the words.