



Eulogy

By means of the funeral rites it has been the practice of the Church, as a tender mother, not simply to commend the dead to God but also to raise high the hope of its children and to give witness to its own faith in the future resurrection of the baptized with Christ.

At the funeral Mass of a person the Church confidently celebrates Christ's paschal mystery. Its intention is that those who by baptism were made one body with the dead and risen Christ may with him pass from death to life. The Church, therefore, offers the eucharistic sacrifice of Christ's Passover for the dead and pours forth prayers and petitions for them (*Order of Christian Funerals*).

At Blessed Trinity Catholic Parish we strive to walk with you in this difficult time while honoring and respecting what we believe as Catholics about the celebration of the Eucharist.

Many families like to say some words at the funeral services. Should you and your family decide to do this please be aware of the following instructions:

- We highly encourage families to have the eulogy (a piece of writing that is said when someone died) at the Wake Service at the Funeral Home or at the time of burial at the cemetery.
- The eulogy is not part of a Funeral Mass; hence we ask you to respect the guidance provided for it.
- In order to maintain the focus on Jesus Christ at the celebration of the Eucharist we limit the eulogy to one person and 2 minutes long.
- We request that you write what you are going to say so it keeps solemn the celebration of the Eucharist.

What Eulogy is expected to Convey

- How the person who died lived his/her Christian faith, including attendance to Sunday Mass, practice of devotion such as Eucharistic Adoration, rosary, chaplet of Divine Mercy, etc., participation in the life of the parish and ministries, volunteering in organization with Catholic values.
- How the person who died helped others come close to Jesus Christ and his Church by his/her witness.
- Bible verses that show the character and life of the person who died.



What Eulogy during a Funeral Mass IS NOT

- A time to make jokes that are inappropriate for the Church.
- A time to make political or ideological statements.
- A time to talk about how much the person who died enjoyed hobbies or other activities. We encourage you to talk about all this at the Wake Service in the Funeral Home.
- A time to have songs, poems, or other artistic expressions that do not convey how the person lived the Christian faith.

Remember that we are participating in the celebration of the Eucharist, the focus is Jesus Christ salvific sacrifice, not the person who died.

For Catholics the celebration of the Eucharist during the Funeral Mass, is a time to acknowledge that heaven and earth come together and the whole Church celebrates the victory of Jesus Christ over sin and death in the Resurrection.

Should you like to highlight the person's life aside from his/her Christian faith, we suggest and encourage you do it at the Wake Service or after the burial in a family gathering.

You agreed to be respectful at the celebration of the Mass. We expect you to follow through with your agreement.

May the souls of the faithful departed through the grace of God rest in peace.

You and your family are in our prayers.