



ST. JOSEPH

GUARDIAN OF THE HOLY FAMILY

PARISH

Churches and Chapels of Falmouth

St. Anthony + St. Patrick
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
St. Thomas + St. Joseph

St. Joseph Parish Guidelines for Eulogies at a Funeral Mass

General Principals

- While most eulogies are offered either at the wake service or at the reception following the Mass, our parish allows for a eulogy to be offered at the church immediately before Mass, **providing the subsequent guidelines are followed.**
- The **primary purpose** of the eulogy is to **inspire and encourage** those present to deepen their own relationship with Jesus by speaking about how the deceased bore witness to the Catholic faith during their life. How a person lived their faith in their life vocation and in their relationships with family, friends and others is the proper and primary subject matter of a eulogy in the context of a Mass.
- While only one person may deliver the eulogy, family members are encouraged to share in the preparation of the eulogy. Their shared memories often form a beautiful picture of the deceased.
- The purpose of a funeral is to offer the sacred celebration of Holy Mass for the benefit of the soul of the deceased. In keeping with the sacred nature of the funeral Mass, the language used in a eulogy should always be **reverent and respectful** and never be crass, overly casual, or disrespectful to the place (church) or occasion (Holy Mass).
- No part of the eulogy may express ideas that are contrary to the Catholic faith. The Catholic faith is based on the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead, who shares eternal life with those who believe in Him – there is no better message of comfort and hope.

Procedure for Offering Eulogies in the Church

- Only **one** person may deliver the eulogy; not pairs, teams, or groups.
- The eulogy must be written and **less than 650 words**, which is about 5 minutes spoken.
- The written eulogy must be submitted to our parish by email (office@falmouthcatholic.org) **by 10am on the business day before the funeral** for review and approval by the priest. **No** eulogy will be allowed in the church if not first reviewed. Our parish reserves the right to omit anything from the eulogy that is contrary to Catholic teaching or not in keeping with the sanctity and reverence of the Mass being offered for the deceased.
- The priest has the responsibility to honor and protect the sacredness of the Mass and has the right to ask the eulogist to not continue if the priest sees the parish policy being violated or ignored.

Parish Office

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