

Daniel David Schmidt's Eulogy

We would like to thank you all for joining us here today. This is not the celebration we had in mind for our son, but it is a celebration. He may have only been with us physically for a short time, yet he will remain in our hearts forever. We hope his memory stays alive through you as well.

From the first time we saw him in the womb, we knew he would be a handful. The first ultrasound was over 11 minutes long, and he never stopped moving. The second ultrasound showed his stubbornness when he refused to move around, as much as we prodded. Even to the end, he was kicking away in Mommy.

When he arrived, Daniel looked to have Daddy's nose, and Mommy's lips. We were so blessed to have had his Grandma and Grandpa Bettess, Nanny and Opa Schmidt, and Auntie 'Nata there, to welcome him into our lives. Our hope is he felt the love of his whole family in his short time with us.

More than any of you, we know this doesn't seem fair. We will have our moments of being angry with God, but we would ask you to not be angry for us. Daniel was and is a blessing. At no time, will we regret having him. April 1st was the most wonderful and sad day of our lives and the best way we all can celebrate him is by loving and supporting each other. We know we are not the only ones who are grieving the loss of Daniel. We would ask you to help each other through this time.

There has been such an outpouring of love and support from so many of you. We would like to thank you for that. Daniel is not the only gift in our lives – all of you are as well. Through the coming weeks, we do not want you to feel you need to avoid us. If you want to reach out, then please do so. If we do not reply, please know that the attempt is comfort in and of itself and it is enough.

Some of you may be familiar with the prayer of St. Francis. The words are incredibly dear to both of us, as we have tried to live our lives by them.

**Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,
And where there's doubt, true faith in you.**

**Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness only light,
And where there's sadness ever joy.**

**Oh Master, grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console.
To be understood as to understand,
To be loved as to love with all my soul.**

**Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
In giving of ourselves that we receive,
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.**

St. Francis understood we're all connected and that we are all in each other's care... Family and strangers both. We believe it's because of this philosophy that we have all of you here supporting us today. We would ask that you consider this philosophy as a way of honoring Daniel's short, precious life – live with love, compassion, and understanding. We love you all. Thank you.