



Our Lady of the Woods Catholic Church

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God bless you in a very special way at this time. On behalf of our parish: the parishioners, staff and myself, be assured of our thoughts, prayers and condolences. It is never an easy time when we lose a loved one, but amidst our grief we must also take the time to celebrate our loved one's life, and show respect and dignity in this moment of transition for his or her new life with God.

In light of this, our Roman Catholic community supports you in whatever way we can, and finds that it could be a very appropriate moment when your family and friends are gathered for visitation at the funeral home, or at a luncheon after the funeral to offer time for a eulogy.

At the Church, there is an opportunity for a family member or friend to "speak in remembrance of the deceased before the final commendation begins," but we ask if you choose to do this to keep the following in mind:

-The words of this remembrance should not become a eulogy. (A eulogy recounts some or all of the significant events in the life of the deceased. Words of remembrance do not attempt to give a biography, but to share some insight into the faith and values of the deceased as seen in one or two examples from his/her life. A eulogy by its very nature tends to be lengthy, while words of remembrance are brief.)-The remembrance should be between 3 -5 minutes.

-The remembrance would only be done by one person.

-The remembrance should be sent to the pastor two days before the funeral liturgy/memorial. You can email it to frbob@ollow.org or drop it off at the parish office. If it was not able to be sent in time, please wait and share the remembrance at any planned gathering after the Mass. If you would choose a eulogy, we invite you to have that done at the funeral home or at the gathering after Mass.

We share this with you so that the Mass of Resurrection for your loved one focuses on his or her transition and full connection to God, and that we bring forth the dignity of that moment done with reverence and with the hope and faith of our Christian Community.

Faithfully yours in Christ,
Fr. Bob Johnson, SVD

*Blessed are they that mourn:
for they shall be comforted.*

Matthew 5:4