



Our Lady of the Woods Catholic Church

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Rev. Robert Johnson

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 to 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 to fullness of life with God.

During this difficult time, we have found it helpful to provide some answers to frequently asked questions:

- **Who do I contact?** The first step for the family to contact a funeral home. The funeral home, after meeting with the family, will contact the Parish Office. One family member will be the point of contact for the Parish Office and will coordinate with our staff for the planning of funeral.
- **Can a eulogy be said at the church?** A funeral includes a *homily*, not a *eulogy*. A *homily* is offered by the presiding minister and is part of the Mass where the Scripture readings are explained, God's merciful love is highlighted, and the mystery of redemption is presented to all those gathered. A *eulogy* focuses praise on an individual and is neither appropriate nor permitted at a Catholic funeral.
- **What music is permitted at the church?** Because of the sacredness of the funeral and its focus on the Paschal Mystery with its promise of salvation, music should be carefully chosen to reflect shared beliefs, especially as articulated in Sacred Scripture. Secular music is not the appropriate accompaniment to sacred liturgy because it cannot express fully these shared beliefs of ultimate significance.
- **What is the Church's beliefs on cremation?** Please see the letter "Understanding Cremated Remains" on our website (www.ollow.org/funeral-planning).

You may have many more questions, and we are here to answer them and support you during this difficult time.

It is our sincere hope that this information will aid you in focusing on your loved one and his/her transition into full communion with God.

Faithfully yours in Christ,
Fr. Bob Johnson

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

- Matthew 5:4