



## Paul "Papa" Bartosz

September 19, 1930 - January 31, 2017

Paul Bartosz, known to his family as "Papa" passed away on January 31, 2017. Paul was born in Salem, Oregon and spent many years in the Willamette Valley farming, working for St. Luke's Catholic Church in Woodburn, and enjoying his family. The son of Joseph and Clara Bartosz, he married Isabelle Zielinski in 1953 and they raised three daughters together. After her death in 1983, he married Kathleen Kuensting and became "Papa" to her four children as well. In 1990, he retired and he and Kathleen moved to Willapa Bay in Washington. There they spent 26 years enjoying peace and quiet except when their seven children and 18 grandchildren came to enjoy the bay, the campfire, and just being together. They also together had 10 great grandchildren and Papa enjoyed knowing that one more great granddaughter will be joining the family in June. As his health declined in the past year, he and Kathleen moved back to Woodburn which allowed him to enjoy many more times with family.

A funeral mass will be held on February 7 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Luke's Church in Woodburn. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Luke's.

# Cemetery Details

## St. Luke Catholic Cemetery

1679 North Front Street  
Woodburn, OR 97071

# Previous Events

## Memorial Mass

FEB 7. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (PT)

St Luke Catholic Church  
417 Harrison St  
Woodburn, OR 97071

# Tribute Wall

“ Papa’s hands are something I will never forget. My earliest memories of him revolve around his thick, stocky hands. Hands that I always admired and looked at with a sense of awe. There are so many reasons why...

*Those hands could coax an old diesel Caterpillar dozer back to life countless times.*

*They would fell a tree and put it to use as firewood, bridges, pathways, gates, ceiling beams, or milled into lumber for a “Potting Shed” or “Ruf-It Hotel”.*

*His hands built toys, furniture, and home décor that his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren cherish and use daily. Handmade items that will be passed on for generations to come.*

*Hands that took prideful care of whatever job was laid in front of them.*

*His hands shaped so many of our homes by tearing down old walls, putting in a new wall, replacing, repairing, and/or refurbishing so many of our homes’ best features.*

*Hands that, as he told the story, made his mother pass out when he got a splint so large he could not bend his fingers. Of course, he thought it was pretty funny.*

*Oh, how his hands could reach out and grab you to give a loving THUMP! as you raced passed his favorite recliner.*

*Papa’s hand would flip through books, magazines, and the newspaper to find the next big project or learn something new about history, science, politics, and weather.*

*The greatest accomplishment of his strong hands, was to skillfully guide his family with strength and love.*

*It is evident in everything WE do.*

*When we build.*

*When we refresh something old.*

*When we create.*

*When we teach.*

*When we write.*

*When we plant.*

*When we shake a hand to make a deal.*

*When we heal.*

*When we learn.*

*When we reach down for our fellow man.*

*When we celebrate.*

*When we hold each other close.*

*When we LOVE.*

*These are the gifts Papa's hands have given us.*

*I will never forget the day I said goodbye. I held Papa's hand and was amazed by how strong, warm, and loving it felt. Even as his body was fading away, his hands remained strong.*

*I am comforted by the fact that when I miss him, I can simply run my hand along the chest he made for my wedding or watch my son play with a toy he built.*

*Most of all, I can feel close to him again but putting my own hands to work with the purpose, skill, and love he passed along.*

*I LOVE YOU, PAPA!*

*-John*

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**John Gaffney** - February 07, 2017 at 01:24 AM

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**gaffney** - February 04, 2017 at 03:29 PM