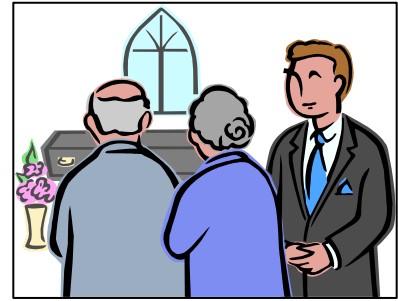


Bereavement Ministry: Revised on June 22, 2009

Mission: Jesus said, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." St. Mary Bereavement Ministry is called to journey with and comfort those who are grieving the death of a loved one. Our ministry reaches out to provide for the spiritual and emotional needs of grieving people through monthly letters, support groups, phone calls, and special memorial Masses. No family or loved one will be forgotten.



Organization: Bereavement Ministry has many dimensions, and works together with those preparing and conducting funeral services in our parish. It also reaches out to parishioners whose loved ones have died and whose funerals are held elsewhere.

- Bereavement Ministry sends a card to each family, expressing heartfelt sympathy from our church. During the next twelve months, they send monthly letters with information about grieving and how to cope with loss.
- Bereavement support group meetings are scheduled twice a month, on the first and third Thursdays, at 7:00 p.m., in the Bishop Fitzgerald Room.
- Each November, parishioners who have lost loved ones are invited to a memorial Mass which is part of our annual All Saints' Day observance.
- Each fall, families who have lost a child are invited to a special Memorial Mass. These Memorial Masses are planned by the members of the Bereavement Ministry, in consultation with the Pastor, the Spirituality Director, and the Music Director.
- The Council of Catholic Women also offers funeral luncheons to parishioners in Burnett Hall after a funeral Mass in our church.
- A member of the Bereavement Ministry team serves on the Spirituality Commission.