



St. Robert's Bereavement Ministry

When Someone Dies...

The days, weeks, and months following the death of a loved one are difficult.

To support those grieving a loss, St. Robert has a long-standing ministry. St. Robert Bereavement Ministers—volunteer parishioners—extend support and concern in the name of the parish by attending funerals and corresponding with the family in the days, weeks, and months after the funeral.

Some Bereavement Ministers also organize the annual All Souls Day Liturgy with its special



Bereavement Ministers coordinate the Christmas Memorial Tree each year in remembrance of family members and other loved ones who have died and are not forgotten.

remembrance of those who have died recently or in years past. Candles are given to family members, photos of loved ones are posted in the gathering space, and a reception is organized after the Liturgy.

Bereavement Ministers also plan periodic days of reflection for those who are grieving a loss and organize the Christmas Memorial Tree.

At this time, more Bereavement Ministers are needed to help with these projects which mean so much at the time of the death of family member.

You may be feeling reluctant to step forward because you feel you lack qualifications. But if you have a compassionate and listening presence and a desire to help, you are qualified.

A brief explanation and introduction to the ministry will be offered, but in-depth training is not required.

If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Claire Anderson at 332-1164, ext. 3022, or canderson@strobert.org.

It is a difficult and yet privileged moment when one provides comfort and support around the time of a death. Just as Jesus wept at the death of his friend Lazarus, Bereavement Ministers extend a ministry of presence to those facing a loss. Please consider making some time for this ministry.

St. Robert Bereavement Ministry entered my life 12 years ago when my husband died.

My assigned minister from St. Robert was a welcomed friend to me as well as my children.

We all grieve in a different way and no one can really know what you feel.

It was the assurance that I was not alone that gave me comfort.

You don't always have to know the right words to say, sometimes it is just your presence that makes a difference.

As a bereavement minister now myself, I have found it continues to help me in my own grieving process.

— Parishioner Mary Janowiak

Lord,
For your faithful people
life is changed, not
ended.

When the body of our
earthly dwelling lies
in death we gain an
everlasting dwelling
place in heaven.

—from the Eucharistic Prayer
for the Dead