

Please tear off this part of the form and either mail it to:

St. Matthew Catholic Church  
Bereavement Ministry  
P O Box 49349  
Charlotte, NC 28277

Or drop it in the Sunday basket or

Bring it to the church office.

Yes, I am interested in knowing more about the Bereavement Ministry. Please contact me.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Area of interest \_\_\_\_\_

*“Blessed are they who  
mourn, for they shall be  
comforted”*

**Are you like many St. Matthew  
Parishioners and wonder how to get  
involved and really make a difference in  
such a large parish?**

**Have you read the bulletin and seen an  
upcoming Bereavement Training and  
wondered????.....**

**Have you lost a loved one or ones and  
been touched by the comforting words or  
actions of others?**

**Do you have a belief that you should “pay  
it forward”?**

If so, then you may have a calling to  
the Bereavement Ministry.

**Read further to see the numerous  
ways that you can become involved  
in this special ministry.**

## Involvement in the Bereavement Ministry

Companion: Someone who spends time with the bereaved, either in person or on the phone, and sends notes of encouragement.

Facilitator: Attends the funeral, sets-up for mass, helps those participating in the liturgy, ushers and greets people.

Communication: Sends out cards and letters when the need arises.

Funeral Reception: Makes desserts, appetizers or sandwiches for the family when there is a reception following the funeral mass.

*If you feel you are called to serve as part of the Bereavement Ministry, please indicate on the tear sheet and return to the church office. We will be in touch with you soon.*

Bereavement Ministry of Consolation  
St. Matthew Catholic Church  
P O Box 49349  
Charlotte, NC 28277  
704.543.7677

## Testimonials

"I wanted to express the appreciation of my family for the wonderful celebration of my father's life. Though it was a small group at the mass, all of us felt that it was just what my father would have liked. Monsignor's words were very comforting, the chapel looked beautiful and our family and friends felt completely welcomed. Thank you for all you did to help us through our initial grieving period." Mary M.

*"Thank you for the kind expressions of sympathy. We find comfort in the cards we receive and in knowing that the Ministry is available to assist, should we need it. The Bereavement Ministry is a very important and special calling. Thank you for being there. Please continue to keep our family in your prayers."* Della L.

"I would like to thank you and the St. Matthew Bereavement Ministry for the lovely plant. This was so kind and thoughtful of your group. You are a lovely person and I hope we will continue to be friends. You really do make a difference in someone's life." Beverly F.

*"I sincerely wish to thank you for the beautiful Easter lily that Marie brought to my home. Would you believe my dear husband, ... always gave me a lily for Easter and I was thinking about that the day before Marie came --- with this lily!!! Maybe that was his way of still giving me that plant."* Mary Ann M.

*"Some people may have the belief that ministering at funerals or partnering with a parishioner who has lost a loved one, would be "depressing." Quite the opposite is true. What a blessing it is to walk with a person who is working through the loss of someone whom they loved so deeply...a cup of coffee, a story from the past, a special remembrance mass, a laugh and a new friend."* Kathy V.

"This beautiful ministry provides great returns on the small investment of few words, heartfelt notes and an open listening heart!" Jo F.

*"After the death of my husband, I wanted to give back the support, concern and help my family and I received from the Bereavement Ministry at St. Matthew. I have met some wonderful and caring people whose primary purpose is to help the bereaved cope with the loss of loved ones. I feel blessed and honored to be a part of such a spiritual and comforting ministry, and my life has become fuller and more meaningful as I participate in the Ministry."* Judy S.

"When a family suffers the loss of a loved one, the ordinary often becomes overwhelming. Our mission is to ease that discomfort by attending to details, providing an avenue to share special memories, lending a gentle hand; all forms of active prayer. In the words of St. Francis of Assisi, "...it is in comforting that we are comforted." Mary B.

**You** can make a difference in the life of someone who has lost a loved one. "In a faith community, no one should grieve alone."



*Is God calling you to walk with someone who has lost a loved one? Was someone there to help you through your grieving process? **You** can be there to help others.*