

Central Region

Blue Hills Collaborative

Most Precious Blood, Hyde Park,
St. Anne, Dedham/Readville and
St. Pius X, Hyde Park/Milton

Bereavement Workshops

But you are not alone. There are others who feel as you do, and it can be helpful to meet and share your feelings. The parishes of the Blue Hills Collaborative are pleased to be offering six-week bereavement workshops, which will provide a safe, private, and non-threatening environment to share your thoughts and feelings. The program offers both afternoon groups and evening groups. You may come as often as you would like, but you must come to the first session in the six-week series in order to be included in the group. All groups are closed to new members after the first session.

For more information, contact Michelle at 1-857-208-5957.

Facilitator

Michelle Tellier graduated Cum Laude from Northeastern University with a BS in Psychology and received Pastoral Care training from Brigham & Women's Hospital. She is certified in QPR Suicide Prevention and Care of the Sick and Homebound. She is a member of the Hospice Foundation of America, the Association for Death Education and Counseling, the Spiritual Director's Institute, and the National Association of Catholic Chaplains. She works as a hospice chaplain for Beacon Hospice.

Saint Anthony Shrine (Arch Street)

100 Arch Street, Boston MA

Bereavement Group

“In mourning, I seek you, my God. Give me vision to see your holy city, to realize that you are always with me, healing my pain and distress, quieting my tears of loss. You are life-giving water, reviving my soul, leading me home to your care, granting me victory over death. Amen.” -Gretchen L. Schwenker

This new Bereavement Group seeks to provide support for persons suffering the loss of a loved one and has been grieving for more than ninety days. The group is not recommended for those suffering the loss of a suicide—those grieving a suicide will be referred to the Suicide Survivors’ Support Group. For more information,

For more information please contact Han Bertrand 617-642-6440 ex 239

Saint Mary Brookline

Bereavement Group

St Mary's holds a Bereavement Group meeting on Wednesday evenings. ALL ARE WELCOME! Please call Janet 617-462-9235 for more information.

Saints Ann and Brendan Dorchester

Bereavement Ministry

Ms. Mary Lou O'Connor & Mrs. Jean Hunt Parish Phone: 617-436-0310

Saint John the Evangelist Winthrop

Bereavement Group

Those who experienced the death of a loved one are invited to attend a six-week Bereavement Group. The next meeting is on a date that will be announced soon.

Coordinator: Sister Jane Iannaccone, S.P.

Email: bereavement@stjohnswinthrop.org

Merrimack Region

Saint Augustine Andover

Miscarried and Stillborn Children

Resources for those who have lost a baby through miscarriage, stillbirth or early childhood

[Talk to a Priest](#) | [Annual Mass of Remembrance](#) | [Memorial](#)

We remember all babies who have died as a result of miscarriage, stillbirth or in early childhood. We remember all mothers and fathers whose hearts are aching and arms empty. We ask God's healing to fill the void and emptiness that has been left. Amen

If you have lost a baby through miscarriage, stillbirth or in early childhood, you may feel a very deep loss which few others seem to understand. The St. Augustine community prays for you, and offers the following resources to help you:

Talk to a Priest: If you need to talk to one of our Friars about your own situation, please do not hesitate to call. Please call: 978-475-0050 and then x35 for Fr. Peter Gori or x32 for Fr. Art Johnson.

Annual Mass of Remembrance: Join us at a Mass of Remembrance for children who have died through miscarriage, stillbirth or in early childhood. All are welcome — especially mothers, fathers and families who want to honor their children and heal from the tremendous pain of their passing.

Catholic Community of Billerica

Bereavement Ministry and Support Group

Grief can be described as reaching out to someone, only to find they are not there. It is expressed physically, emotionally, socially and spiritually. An individual suffering loss may find him or herself crying frequently, feeling a sadness and yearning for how things used to be. One might become detached from friends and family and find it difficult around the holidays, and perhaps ask God, "Why me?"

Loss is inevitable. To be a follower of Christ is to love life and to value people and things that God has given to us in such a way that losing them brings sadness. Mourning is the process of adapting to the losses in our lives. Thankfully, as Christians, we believe that we will one day see our deceased loved ones in heaven and share eternity with them in the presence of God.

Bereavement support is designed to help you understand that all of your feelings and actions are natural and normal. Each of us are unique creations of God and will grieve in our own way and in our own time.

A support group offers an opportunity for discussion, sharing and questions as well as information and resources on grief. It is our hope that we can accompany you on your journey to healing.

If you have any questions or would like to register for an 8-week bereavement support group session, please contact a member of our Bereavement Ministry Team:

Adrienne Cullen

978-663-3624

Adrienne.cullen.ccb@gmail.com

There will be two 8-week sessions per year. Meetings will be held every other Thursday from 7 – 8:30 PM in Room 6 at St. Theresa Parish Center.

We ask that you give yourself two-three months before beginning an 8-week session. It is important to allow some time for personal grieving prior to entering a support group.

The dates for Winter/Spring 2019 (Registration is required) are:

February 7, February 21, March 7, March 21, April 4, April 18, May 2, May 16

Perhaps you would like to speak privately with a priest or member of our pastoral team. You are welcome to call the rectory at 978-663-8816 to set up an appointment.

Saint Francis Dracut

Reaching out to the Bereaved

St. Francis is particularly cognizant of those suffering a loss in their family. Our Funeral Ministry consists of teams of volunteers who aid the family through the difficult steps of planning the Funeral Liturgy; they attend the wake and funeral, and they lend a helping hand wherever needed.

Our clergy and volunteer team members also keep in contact with the family throughout the year, and we encourage the grieving family members to attend our Bereavement Support Group.

Each November, we celebrate a Mass of Remembrance. All families who have lost loved ones in the past year are invited to light a candle at the altar (below) in memory of their loved one. After, we host refreshments in the parish hall, which allows families and friends invaluable time to relax and provide comfort to each other.

Phone: (978) 452-6611

All Saints Haverhill

On the first Wednesday of the month we will continue offering grief support to those who have lost loved ones. We invite anyone who is experiencing sadness from loss to join us for prayerful sharing and reflection.

We will meet following the 8:00 am Mass in the rectory dining room. There is no cost to participate. For further information contact Maureen in the parish office at 978-372-7721.

Saint Michael Lowell

Bereavement Ministry

This important ministry assists the priest and Funeral Directors in outreach to bereaved families. They help the family plan the funeral by assisting in selecting readings, hymns, assisting or conducting Vigil services (wakes) and/or gravesides committal services when the priest is not available. If interested in this rewarding and fulfilling ministry, please contact the parish at 978-459-0713.

Saint William Tewksbury

Bereavement Group meets first Saturday of the month at 10:30 am. Please contact Elaine Walsh at lazyquilt@comcast.net or 978.866.0995.

Saint Anne Littleton and Saint Catherine Westford

MINISTRY OF HOPE (St. Anne & St. Catherine) The Ministry of Hope is a group of caring, compassionate parishioners who work closely with families who have experienced a death. They meet with families to help them plan the funeral liturgy; pray with the family at the wake before their guests arrive; assist the priest at the funeral; and say prayers at the burial. The families often express gratitude for the assistance of the Ministry of Hope, and their ministry members find it to be truly rewarding. St. Anne: Susan Butterfield at 978-692-6521 or SusanB@LWCatholic.org St. Catherine: Diane Holmes at 978-692-4652 or diholmes2@verizon.net

North Region

Saint Mary of the Annunciation Danvers

Grief Support Group

Everyone grieves differently when it comes to the loss of a loved one. There is sadness, loneliness and sometimes even feelings of frustration and anger. It's important to find ways to cope, so that the healing can begin. Our Grief Support group is free and available to anyone in the community who has experienced a loss. This group is beneficial because it provides a place to begin sharing your grief with others who have suffered a loss and it promotes building long-term supportive relationships.

St. Mary's parish offers a Grief Group on the second Friday of every month for those who have experienced the loss of a loved one. We all know that the loss of a beloved parent, a spouse, a child, a dear friend leaves a "hole in the soul." Our group will allow people to come together to pray and to share their stories of their loved ones who have died. In this kind of setting many can find solace, support and understanding. Our pastoral associate, Ken Meltz along with Jerry Dunn, a parishioner at

Saint Maria Goretti in Lynnfield, will facilitate this group which meets from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM in the rectory.

The Lynnfield Catholic Community

Ministry of Consolation

The Ministry of Consolation provides bereavement and spiritual support to parishioners who have experienced the death of a family member or friend. Volunteers can send notes and cards to bereaved parishioners from the comfort of their own home. Contact: Maria Gagnon at mariagagnon@comcast.net.

Saugus Catholic Collaborative

Saugus Catholics Collaborative's *Finding God in the Pain of Loss* is a Scripture-based program designed to help those who are struggling with the loss of a loved one. We meet on the last Wednesday of each month, at 7PM, in the lower hall of Blessed Sacrament Church in Saugus. The evening begins with a Scripture reading that is particularly relevant to those who are grieving, and then continues with discussion and sharing. All are welcome, whether your loss was yesterday or years ago.

Linda Riley

Ministry Manager

Saugus Catholics Collaborative

14 Summer Street

Saugus, MA 01906

781-233-2497

Saint Patrick Stoneham

Bereavement Ministry

"Comfort the Sorrowful"

In an effort to walk with the bereaved during the difficult and painful period of mourning, Saint Patrick Parish offers a variety of programs through which we endeavor to be a faithful presence of hope and consolation through our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Although we are deeply saddened by our loss, we do not grieve as those who have no hope (1 Thes. 4:13-18). Our faith teaches us that Christ died to secure for us the promise of salvation and assures us that we will be together with our loved ones again in the glorious presence of our Almighty Father for all eternity.

Please see our list of offerings below. For more information or if you would like to register for any Bereavement Ministry event, please call Patrice Fitzpatrick at 781-438-0200 or Mary Price at 781-438-0960. All are welcome.

SPIRITUAL HELP FOR GRIEVING PARENTS

One-Day Retreat

St. Anthony Shrine Boston

Saturday, 3/23/19 9:30 am-7:00 pm

Give yourself the gift of getting away to focus on where God is in your life after the death of your child-- and how to survive this horrific situation. Pre-registration at www.emfgp.org required.

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### One-Hour Brown Bag Lunch Retreat

Wednesday, 3/27/19 12:15 pm-1:15 pm

Keeping Ashleigh Alive: My Spiritual Journey after the Death of My Beautiful Daughter

Presented by: Genevieve Baudin

Bring a lunch; we provide beverages.

No pre-registration or cost requires.

For more information, see [www.emfgp.org](http://www.emfgp.org)

or call 617-542-8057

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PLEASE NOTE: A One-Day Retreat for Grieving Parents will also be held at St. Patrick Parish on September 21, 2019. For more information, contact Patrice Fitzpatrick at 781-438-0200.

6-WEEK GRIEF SUPPORT GROUPS

Wednesday Evenings, 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Offered during the Spring and Fall

If you have suffered the death of a loved one and feel you would benefit from prayerful reflection and conversation in a supportive Catholic Christian environment, please join our Grief Support Group which will meet here at Saint Patrick Parish for six consecutive Wednesday evenings from 6:00 – 7:30 pm.

Together, we will explore the grieving process and consider the spiritual elements of grief and healing. As part of these peer support group meetings, participants are invited to share their experiences with other grieving people who offer faithful understanding, acceptance, and support. For more information and to register, please call Patrice at 781-438-0200.

GRIEF SUPPORT DROP-IN EVENINGS

2nd Monday of each Month
(except holidays & excluding the month of July)
6:00pm - 7:30pm

There is no registration required to join us for these evenings of peer support for those grieving the death of a loved one. We meet in the Youth / Multi-Purpose Room on the basement level of the church building. For more information, please call Patrice at 781-438-0200.

For more information about our grief support offerings, please call Patrice Fitzpatrick at 781-438-0200 or Mary Price at 781-438-0960.

Saint Eulalia Winchester

St Eulalia has a Bereavement program that runs for 6 consecutive weeks. Tuesday evenings from 6pm-7:30pm. We have 2 sessions a year. Fall and Spring. This Spring's dates will be April 30-6/4/19. The limit of participants is 10.

Barbara Mahoney Pastoral Care Associate (781) 729-8220

South Region

Saint Francis Braintree

Have 6-session spring and fall groups that typically meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday from 1-230 in our church hall.

Current format is drop-in, facilitators include 2 nurses and Linda Muldoon.

Next group begins on March 12.

I am also available by appointment with "tissues and tea" for anyone who needs to chat.

Linda M. Muldoon

Pastoral Associate, St. Francis of Assisi Parish

856 Washington Street, Braintree, MA 02184

Phone 781.843.1332 Fax 781.848.0976

lmuldoon@sfab.org

Cranberry Collaborative Middleboro

Bereavement

The Sacred Heart Bereavement Support Team is facilitated by two of our parish nurses who are members of the Health Ministry Team at Sacred Heart Parish and have expertise in Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing, end-of-life/bereavement issues, and education of professional and lay groups. If you are in need of bereavement support or just need a gentle ear to listen please call the parish offices.

Sts. Martha & Mary: 508-947-2107

Sacred Heart: 508-947-0444

St. Rose of Lima: 508-763-2244

Our Lady of the Lake Halifax

Bereavement

To provide consolation to bereaved parishioners, to participate in and help with the vigil, funeral and committal. A collation is provided over in our parish center for the family to gather for some light refreshment.

Chairman – Laura Sullivan

Call Rectory

781-293-7971

Saint Agatha Milton

Thursday mornings from 9:30 to 11am.

It runs for 8 weeks. People are welcome to join.

Lisa Gulino, the pastoral associate coordinates.

lgulino@StAgathaParish.org

Saint Elizabeth Milton

Journeying through Grief - A 6-Week Support Group for the Newly Bereaved

Tuesday evenings, March 12th – April 16th

6:00 PM-7:00 PM

St. Elizabeth's Church

350 Reedsdale Road

Milton, MA

This group will offer education about the grief process and coping strategies to navigate the difficulties and challenges of life after the loss of a spouse, partner, family member or close friend. Participants will receive readings and resources to guide their journey through grief and be invited to participate in discussions/activities as they feel comfortable. Attendees are expected to attend all 6 sessions. For more information or to register contact: Bereavement Specialist, Anne-Marie Thompson, LICSW at: 1-866-670-9449 or anthompson@seasons.org

Plymouth-Carver Catholic Collaborative

Ministry of Consolation

Grief and Loss Support Groups, Bereavement Ministry, Emmaus Ministry for Grieving Parents

Journey from Grief to Healing....

The gatherings are held twice a year in the fall and in the spring for 8 weeks. Come together for sharing and healing in a prayerful small group setting. THE NEW DAY JOURNAL by M. O'Brien is used as a resource.

Grief support groups for those who have lost loved ones will be offered at Saint Kateri Parish, Tuesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 PM at 126 South Meadow Road, Plymouth and at Saint Peter Parish, Wednesday mornings from 10:00 to 11:30 AM at St. Peter Church, 10 Memorial Drive, Plymouth.

For more information on dates and to register for one of the sessions please call

St. Kateri Parish Office: 508-747-1568 or St. Peter Parish Office: 508-746-0663.

Bereavement Ministry

"Members of the community are called to console the mourners with words of faith and support and with acts of kindness, for example, assisting them with some of the routine tasks of daily living." Order of Christian Funerals

A parish's bereavement ministry exists to support parishioners and friends who have lost loved ones through death by providing comfort, consolation and support. Support starts with the immediate tasks of planning the wake, funeral and burial and extends outward to offer support following the loss.

St. Peter Parish Bereavement Team serves the parish community of Plymouth. For more information please call St. Peter Parish Office at 508-746-0663.

The Emmaus Ministry for Grieving Parents serves the spiritual needs of parents whose children of any age have died by any cause, no matter how long ago. This retreat will be offered Saturday, July 13, 2019 at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Carver from 9:30am to 7:30pm.

Sacred Heart and Thomas More Weymouth/Braintree

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Mourning the loss of someone you love is never easy, but there is hope. The Collaborative Parishes of Sacred Heart and Saint Thomas More will host a bereavement support group beginning Thursday, January 17th from 1:00-2:00 pm in the lower church hall at Sacred Heart using various materials that explore Catholic tradition, and the promises of God's consolation through scripture, prayer, reflections and faith sharing. We hope that you will prayerfully consider our invitation to come. We are uplifted by knowing the Lord blesses those who mourn and offers not only hope for us but true peace that surpasses all understanding. New participants are welcome. Inquire at mbbrady@shstm.org or Mary Beth Brady at 781-337-6333 ext 116 for details.

West Region

Saint Ignatius Chestnut Hill

Funerals and Bereavement

Funerals and Bereavement is a ministry of presence, remembrance, and compassion in which parishioners serve at funerals as ministers of hospitality. We also offer a program of caring for friends and family members who have experienced the loss of a loved one. Contact: Maureen Saldarini, mcsaldarini113@gmail.com.

Saint George Framingham

Bereavement Ministry

The St. George Bereavement Ministry is in need of volunteers!
If you could help us, we would be most grateful.

Responsibilities:

- *Attend the wake service, which lasts about 10 minutes - and bring comfort and consolation to the family.
- *Volunteers are present in the Hall during the reception (if the family requests use of the Hall).
- *They help serve food to those who need help, and help pack food to be taken home from the Hall.
- **You would be called on 2 or 3 times a year. The more people who volunteer the fewer times you will be called.
- *Grieving families are most appreciative of the presence of our parishioners during their time of loss.

If you feel called to this vital ministry, please contact Sr. AnnMarie at the Rectory (508)877-5130 X 203.

Saint Mary Franklin

St Mary Church in Franklin offers a 7-week bereavement support group for anyone who has experienced a recent loss.

The groups are offered in the Spring and Fall.

For information, please contact Nan Rafter at 774-571-0092

Sacred Heart and Our Lady Newton

Bereavement Ministry

The Bereavement Ministry works with a family immediately after the death of a loved one, helping to plan the liturgy for the funeral Mass. This personal contact helps to ease the anxiety felt at a time of grief. The family is encouraged to take an active part in celebrating the life of the deceased as readers and gift bearers. Members assist as cantors, altar servers, lectors and Eucharistic Ministers. Annually, the names of the deceased are read during a Mass of Remembrance.

Our Lady Help of Christians: Cathy Belli Duffy – cathybelliduffy@comcast.net

Sacred Heart: Brian Romer Niemiec – bniemiec@sholnewton.org

Have You Lost Someone You Love? Grief Support Group

The death of a loved one is unlike any other. Whether the death was sudden and tragic, or one with warning and preparation, the reality of death leaves most of us shocked, confused and sad. These feelings may last for years. Grieving people need time and space to honor their grief. Your loss may be recent, or it may be years ago. Our Lady's and Sacred Heart has developed a program to help you and yours start the healing process. We offer two 6-week workshops each year with a monthly drop-in group in between sessions. The next 6-week session will begin after Easter. Until then you are invited to drop-in on the first Sunday of the month, no registration is required, and the group is open to all. Monthly sessions will meet at Our Lady's in the McPherson Room (lower level of main church building, by the stairs at the parking lot entrance) Sundays from 11:15am -12:15pm February 3, March 3, and April 7 For more information, please contact Kate Neal at 617-527-7560 x219 or kneal@sholnewton.org

Saint Timothy Norwood

Bereavement Support

Grieving a loss is a process which is unique to each individual. It is one of life's most painful experiences and takes time.

While some people seek the emotional and spiritual support of others as they journey through grief, others prefer to grieve privately, and we are always respectful of that. We encourage you to contact us if we can be of assistance in any way.

Bereavement Support Groups are held in the Spring and in the Fall each year. The groups provide members with a welcoming atmosphere to share feelings, listen and mutually support others who have experienced the death of a loved one. Participating in a Bereavement Support Group can help to reduce feelings of isolation, provide information on the normal grief process, and build new supports and friendships.

The annual Mass of Remembrance is held in November and is a time to celebrate and remember all those who died and were buried from our parish in the past year.

Mary Fitzgerald, PN St. Timothy Parish 781-769-2522

Our Lady of Fatima Sudbury

Bereavement Ministry and Support

We have a Bereavement Support Group which meets once a month on the second Wednesday of the month; there is a morning session from 10:00 - 11:30 AM and an evening session 7:00 - 8:30 PM. If you are trying to rebuild your life and need the support of others on this journey, please stop in or contact: <mailto:mary@fatimasudbury.org>

Sacred Heart Waltham

Bereavement Support 781-899-0469

