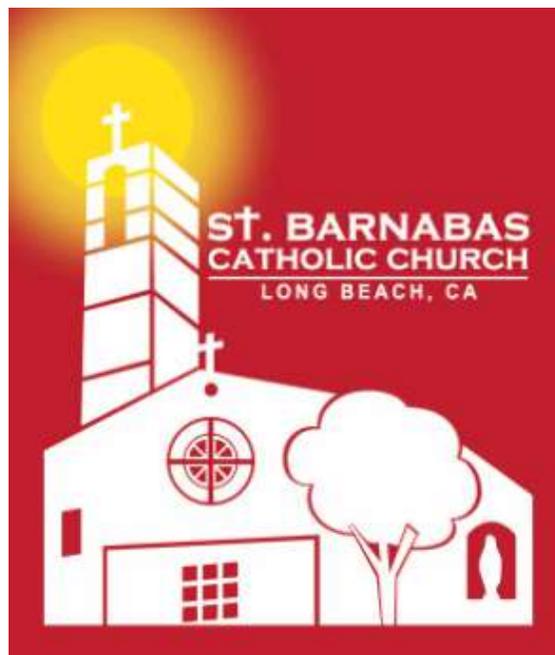
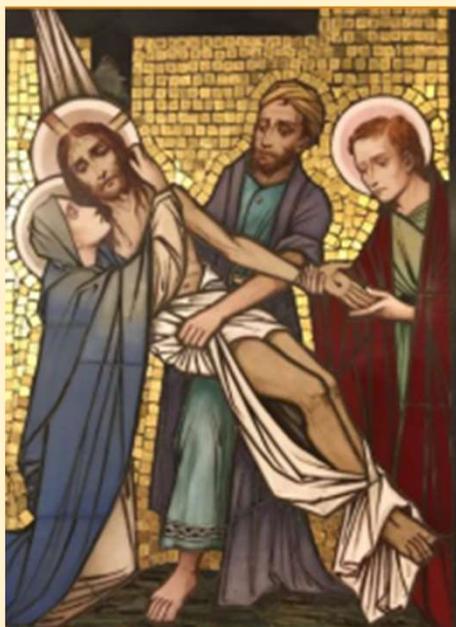


“The church calls each member of Christ’s Body – priest, deacon, and layperson – to participate in the ministry of consolation: to care for the dying, to pray for the dead, to comfort those who mourn.”

(Order of Catholic Funerals
OCF #8

This ministry, also known as the Bereavement Ministry, answers the parish’s need to serve grieving people in a special way.



PARISH MISSION STATEMENT: “We, the Catholic Community of St. Barnabas Parish, are a people formed by Christ, called in Baptism and united in the Eucharist; we continue the mission of the Church in the world through Prayer, Apostolic Works, Evangelization, and Christian Stewardship.”

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ST BARNABAS MINISTRY OF CONSOLATION



**COMFORT &
STRENGTH FOR THE
JOURNEY**

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

Matthew 5:4



“This ministry can take many directions according to the gifts of the parish members. There is need for words of faith, comfort, and encouragement as well as various acts of kindness for those who mourn, helping them little by little, to get on with their lives. A very important aspect of this ministry is that of assisting the family of the deceased in preparing for the funeral liturgy. And that is what we, the Ministry of Consolation at St. Barnabas, are focusing on at the present time.”

(Preparing Funeral Liturgies: A Liturgical Handbook for Bereavement Committees, pg.4)

There are two important parts to our ministry:

- ✦ Meet with the family contact(s) and help plan the funeral for their loved one
- ✦ Be present on the day of the funeral to support and assist the family and guests and to ensure that everything is set up for the funeral mass

We are a small ministry, but we are hoping to grow and attract others who have a heart for helping those who have experienced loss.

Time Commitment:

We plan to meet as a group once a month, sharing experiences and our faith. The time commitment varies, depending on when funerals are scheduled by the church. Meetings with family contacts can be scheduled at any time that is convenient to both the family and a Ministry member.

Funerals are scheduled during the week as well as on Saturdays, usually in the mornings.

Listen carefully and open your heart – is God asking you to answer His call, and be part of this ministry? “Do not be afraid. I am with you.”

If you:

- ✦ Have empathy and compassion
- ✦ Are organized and are a good listener
- ✦ Have experience with caring for others
- ✦ Know about grief
- ✦ Speak a second language

These are helpful gifts and talents for this ministry!

The Archdiocese provides valuable training and resources.

For more information

Contact the coordinator

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