



Offering support, friendship,
understanding and acceptance
throughout the grieving process.

THE SHEPHERDS OF COMPASSION

The Bereavement Ministry at Saint Germaine is in need of volunteers to assist us in our Service to our Parish.

Please, donate a small portion of your personal time to GOD and to assist us in helping our fellow Parishioners in their time of need.

Prayer Team

A volunteer agrees to pray for those who have died and their families. As a Prayer Team volunteer you will be notified of deaths in our Parish and can offer prayers of your own choosing on your own schedule, wherever you choose. It is not necessary to attend any Meetings. We only require that you have a valid E-mail Address or have access to one.

Callers to the Bereaved

We need people to make phone calls to assist us with staying in contact with the bereaved. A short phone call keeps us in touch and so we know how each individual is coping.

Invitation Callers

We need callers to invite the bereaved to events here at the Parish. Events include our Movie Night, Game Night, Christmas Party, Adoration Liturgy, and the Breakfast Club.

Event Planners

We also need help planning and setting up our bereavement events, especially our Game Night, Movie Night, and Christmas Party. Responsibilities involve purchasing food, setting the environment, welcoming guests, and clean-up. We have about 8-10 events each year and each event lasts approximately two hours. Please, volunteer for as many events as you would like. We always need a helping hand.

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HEARTBREAK

*Into our lives a little rain must fall
Through heartbreak we learn what life is about
Life is GOD, given to learn, to love, to give, to grow tall
It is GOD's way of giving to us without doubt
We learn what true life can be through heartbreak
We learn we are not perfect, nor will we ever be
For we could never bear the sorrowful passion
Which our precious LORD endured
A heart never broken could not know and receive
While in the throws of deep grief and despair
The love GOD gives those who have walked that road
The joy of knowing we live through HIS love and care
In this life we walk an imperfect path
The love we receive is from GOD here on earth
We show love to all with the peace of the dove
GOD's joy in this world came from HIS SON's birth.*

ADORATION LITURGY

After A long hiatus, Saint Germaine will resume the Adoration Liturgy and Prayers for the Dead on March First, following the First Saturday Mass at approximately 9:45 A.M. The liturgy will last around 30 minutes. We will pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet and offer prayers for the deceased and for those who are grieving.

Events

3/20/2014	8:45 AM	9:30 AM	St. Germaine Coffee Club
3/29/2014	5:30 PM	8:30 PM	St. Germaine Game Night
4/27/2014			Divine Mercy Sunday
5/15/2014	8:45 AM	9:30 AM	St. Germaine Coffee Club
5/24/2014	5:30 PM	8:30 PM	St. Germaine Movie Night
6/7/2014	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	Bereavement Liturgy
6/19/2014	8:45 AM	9:30 AM	St. Germaine Coffee Club

“THINGS NOT TO SAY”

While certain members of our community may serve as Bereavement Ministers, it is important to realize that we are all Bereavement Ministers, since we all have contacts with those who grieve. It is equally important that we are aware of certain pitfalls involved in Ministering to those in grief. There are many sayings that are customary in our response to grief and death, however, some of these can be quite detrimental. Ministering to those in grief is primarily an act of listening. Knowing what to say to a person in grief is difficult. We need to be led by charity and the Holy Spirit. However, it is equally important to know what not to say. In this article, and ones to follow, we will be discussing several pitfalls and try to put them into a Pastoral and Theological context.

One common saying is: “His death was God’s will”.

While it may be stated in charity and sympathy, we need to consider what is heard in the hearts of those who grieve. There are several aspects that need to be considered to understand why such a statement is detrimental.

First, there’s the theological aspect: Is a person’s death God’s will? Is God’s will always done?

To address the second question first, God’s will is always done. However we need to understand God’s Will. It is God’s will that mankind is free, free to make both good and bad decisions. God’s will is done in that we are free and God does not violate our freedom. However, we do not always exercise our freedom in God’s will. If we did, then man would never have sinned and praying that God’s will is done (Lord’s Prayer) would be unnecessary. So, in an individual sense God’s will is not always done.

This differentiation helps us to understand the first question: Is death God’s will? In the Genesis Account of Creation, God made man, the earth, and all it contains. He looked upon what He had done and pronounced it “Good”. If we examine God’s creation, we see that death was not a part of God’s plan. Man’s action brought death into the world and, thus, death is an integral part of our existence.

Is death God’s will? There is a Rabbinic Tale which tells of the destruction of the Egyptians in the Red Sea. When the Egyptians were drowned, so the tale runs, the angels began a paean (expression) of praise, but God said sorrowfully; “The work of my hands are sunk in the sea, and you would sing before me”? The love of God is such that he can never take pleasure in the destruction of any of the creatures whom His hands have made. The only death that God willed, but certainly took no pleasure, was the death of His Son on the Cross and that was necessary so that we might live.

Second, there are pastoral consequences in saying a person’s death was God’s will. In the midst of grief such a statement paints God as vengeful, the one who took my husband, wife, son, or daughter away. There are many grieving people, through their own misunderstanding, who are angry with God, and such statements only aggravate their grief. Hearing that God is responsible for their suffering and loss increases that anger and makes God an enemy. What could be a greater loss than to lose a son or daughter, a husband or wife, and in the process lose God! At a time when we most need God, saying that our loved ones’ death is God’s will is insensitive at best, and at worst...