

Ministry of Care:
Join The Funeral Ministry

Burying the dead is one of the Corporal Works of Mercy. Scripture tells us that Jesus felt such deep compassion for the families of those who had died that he brought the deceased back to life: He called Lazarus out of his tomb (John 11); he raised Jarius's daughter from her death bed (Mark 5); Jesus spoke and the widow's son was restored to her (Luke 7).

In the spirit of Jesus, we have a ministry at St. Mary's Church whose purpose is to assist the deceased's family with preparations for their loved one's funeral, and to serve the celebrant and those present at the funeral Mass with dignity and respect.

Do you have some time to serve in this important ministry from time to time? There are various roles that you can participate in. Maybe one is of particular interest to you:

- Learning how to host a family interview by meeting with them in person to select readings and music for the funeral, and to listen to stories about their loved one.
- Assisting before Mass by preparing the altar, sacristy, and church for the funeral.
- Acting as a greeter at the church entrances for funeral directors, family members, and other mourners.
- Attending the funeral Mass as a support to the bereaved.
- Serving as a liturgical minister during the funeral in such roles as cross bearer, lector, and altar server.

Why serve in the funeral ministry? Because Jesus cares for the families of the deceased. Jesus has reserved a place for us in heaven if we believe in him: *"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"*

If you are employed and don't see how you could take part in this rewarding ministry, please know that Saturday morning funerals might be a good fit for you. Interested? Want more information about serving and training? Please contact Jolene Gamache at ministersofcare@stmaryonbroadway.org.