

***Dear Friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.***

***1 John 4:11-12***



Dear Lord, we pray for those receiving care from our Stephen Ministers. Although their names and situations are strictly confidential, their identities and circumstances are known to you. You who number the hairs on our heads know the source of their pain, the depth of their suffering, and the specifics of their needs. Help them with whatever challenge or crisis they are facing. Work through their Stephen Ministers to bring them hope and encouragement, so that they may feel the vastness of your unconditional love and forgiveness and experience the joy of salvation they have in you. In your name we pray. Amen

**For more information, please contact:**

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## **STEPHEN MINISTRY**

**When you or someone you know is in need of care.....**



**Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish  
6369 Belmont Ave  
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## ***What is Stephen Ministry?***

Stephen Ministry is grounded in Jesus' command to love one another. Through one-to-one caring relationships, those who are hurting receive the love and care they need to support them.

- **Is life more than you can handle alone right now?**
- **Are your health, your attitude, or your relationship suffering?**
- **Are you adjusting to a new job, a change in marital status, a serious illness, the death of a loved one, a recent move?**
- **Would you like to have someone in your life who really cares?**

Everyone goes through difficult times. Having someone to care, to listen, to share God's love with you can help you get through the confusion, stress, or loneliness you may be experiencing.



## ***What is a Stephen Minister?***

### **A Stephen Minister is . . .**

- A child of God who walks beside a hurting person
- A caring Christian friend who really listens
- A lay person who has received 50 hours of training in how to provide distinctively Christian care

### **A Stephen Minister is NOT . . .**

- a counselor or therapist
- a problem-solver
- a casual visitor

### ***Stephen Ministers Are Called to be Caregivers***

*Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.*

Galatians 6:2

*Encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone.*

1 Thessalonians 5:14b

### ***God Is the Caregiver***

*Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you.*

Psalms 55:22a

*"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."*

Matthew 11:28

*Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.*

1 Peter 5:7

### ***How does the referrals process work?***

- A person—either you, a relative, or a friend—is hurting and in need of Christian care.
- The Stephen Ministry Referrals Coordinator learns about this need for care—from the pastor, the person, or a friend, always with the person's permission.
- The Referrals Coordinator meets with the person to talk about Stephen Ministry.
- With the person's permission, the Referrals Coordinator assigns a Stephen Minister to meet on a weekly basis with the person.
- The Stephen Minister continues to provide distinctively Christian care for the person in strict confidentiality.

### ***Stephen Ministry helps meet the needs of individuals who are . . .***

- hospitalized
- terminally ill
- bereaved
- in a job crisis
- new members of the church
- disabled
- homebound
- lonely
- in a spiritual crisis
- looking for a caring Christian friend

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**Consider allowing a Stephen Minister to walk with you on your journey to wholeness.**