

Elizabeth Ministry

Areas of Involvement

- ✔ **Pregnancy**
General Pregnancy
Pregnancy Complication
- ✔ **Celebration of Birth**
General Birth
Special Birth Outcomes
- ✔ **Grandparent Support**
- ✔ **Prayer Support**
Prayer Partner
Prayer Network
Blessing Rituals
Memorial Services
- ✔ **Miscarriage & Infant or Child Death**
- ✔ **Fertility & Infertility**
Waiting to Conceive
Accepting Inability to Conceive
Accepting a Childless Life
Fertility Transformations
- ✔ **Adoption**
Considering/ Waiting to Adopt
Adoption Loss
Celebration of Adoption
Birth Mother
- ✔ **Infant or Child Crisis**
Premature Birth
Intensive Care Nursery
Special Needs
Child Illness
- ✔ **Family Support**
Meals
Child Care
Housekeeping
Transportation
- ✔ **Gifts & Resource Kits**

"Our dream is that this ministry will help the parish truly celebrate the gift of each child conceived and born, and fully mourn each miscarriage and infant death. This will be a strong witness to our belief in the dignity and worth of all life!"

*Jeannie Hannemann, MA
Kurt Gessner, Capuchin
Founders, Elizabeth Ministry*

"Women supporting other women out of their shared experience is truly the Gospel at work. Elizabeth Ministry adds to the fullness of community in any parish."

*Msgr. Michael D. McGraw, MSSA, LSW
Former Executive Director, Catholic Charities
Diocese of Erie, Pennsylvania*



"Elizabeth Ministry has provided our parish with a way to reach out in support and caring to young families in our community. It fills the need for them to feel welcome and connected in an increasingly isolated society."

*Kathy Schwetz
Elizabeth Ministry Coordinator*

"We so enjoyed our visit by an Elizabeth Minister. It was wonderful to have someone take the time to welcome us and our new baby into our parish family."

*Jessica Kunco
Sacred Heart Parishioner*

Everything to initiate and maintain this ministry is available from:

Erin Landini, M.S., Director
Parish Social Ministry/Respect Life
Catholic Charities
St. Mark Catholic Center
429 East Grandview Boulevard
Erie, PA 16504

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<http://www.eriercd.org/charities4e.asp>



Elizabeth Ministry

*Following the example
of Mary and Elizabeth,
we visit and share
the sacredness of life!*

What Is Elizabeth Ministry?

Elizabeth Ministry is a response to the needs of women and their families during childbearing years.

Elizabeth Ministry has been designed to encourage, assist and affirm women during this unique time in their lives.

Elizabeth Ministry is a way to enable women to reach out to one another in support.



Why is it needed?

✧ Beyond Baptismal preparation, there are limited opportunities for parishes to connect with young families.

✧ Neighborhoods are fragmented, leaving many families isolated.



✧ Parishes have increased in size, making it difficult to create a warm, hospitable, personal and loving environment.

✧ Mobility has caused many extended families to be separated by miles, making frequent visits improbable and presence impossible.

How Does It Work?

✧ Elizabeth Ministry offers support, resources, prayers, and understanding during the joys and sorrows of the childbearing years.

✧ The Elizabeth Minister may present the person she is visiting with a special *Gift & Resource Kit*.

✧ These visits may take place in homes, at the hospital, or any comfortable place.

✧ Follow-up contacts are made in person, by phone, by mail or even e-mail

✧ Women become mentors for one another in the magnificent adventure of bringing new life into the world.

✧ The sharing of life experiences brings a caring commitment and a sense of community.

✧ Each Elizabeth Minister represents the parish community. She becomes an instrument of its care, support, and resources to women and their families during their childbearing years.

✧ This outreach fosters companionship based on personal experience and acquired skills of the participants.

What are the Benefits?

Elizabeth Ministry will empower the people of your parish to:

- ✧ Give reassurance and encouragement to women who are pregnant or are caring for a newborn,
- ✧ Offer support to women dealing with infertility,
- ✧ Reach out to women who experience miscarriage or infant / child death,
- ✧ Celebrate birth with parents and families,
- ✧ Respond at times of infant and child crisis,
- ✧ Assist parents involved in the adoptive process,
- ✧ Offer support and encouragement to grandparents,
- ✧ Seek strength, wisdom and grace from Mary, our Heavenly Mother,
- ✧ Welcome young families into the parish community.

For further information, contact:

Elizabeth Ministry Coordinator
Catholic Charities
Diocese of Erie
(814) 824-1254 or
(800) 374-3723 ext. 254

www.eriercd.org