



# How to Start an Embrace Grace Support Group at Your Parish

1. Connect with the Pro-Life office to let us know your parish is interested in starting the process ([dniesen@archkck.org](mailto:dniesen@archkck.org)).
2. Chat with an Embrace Grace team member so they can answer your questions: 817-755-8487.
3. Present it to your pastor, download the "Tips to Present to Your Pastor" document available on our website ([www.archkck.org/embrace-grace](http://www.archkck.org/embrace-grace)) to help you prepare for your meeting.  
Potential concerns from a Pastor:
  - a. What his commitment would be - which is basically to approve the ministry, sign the agreement and be available for one or two of the events which would be optional.
  - b. What the space commitment would be - would need space at the church for roughly 14 weekly sessions that would accommodate a small group.
  - c. What the financial commitment would be - this would be minimal as the Pro-Life Office at the Archdiocese, through donations received from the Archbishop's Respect Life Fund, is offering to pay these "start-up" fees. Any items in addition to the "basic" start-up items or for ongoing expenses is to be assumed by the involved parish. However, scholarships could be available on an as needed basis.
  - d. Archdiocesan approval - the Pro-Life Office can provide a letter of recommendation to your pastor to inform him this is an Archdiocesan approved ministry.
4. Sign Agreement - a no-cost digital form that is required to be filled out by both the woman who is starting a support group and the oversight pastor at the church.  
<https://www.tfaforms.com/4723493>
5. Pastor needs to sign agreement: Due to the sensitivities of a woman walking through an unplanned pregnancy, we want to make sure that if she attempts to get help from a local church, that the churches we are partnering with are safe and loving. Many times, the women who attend our support groups do not have a church upbringing or have been hurt by the church. It's important that the oversight pastor signs off acknowledging that your church is safe, loving and a shame/ judgment free zone.
6. Once the Agreement Form is Processed:
  - **Make It Official** - confirmation email & phone call with an Embrace Grace Groups Support Team Member
  - **Leaders Training & Resources** - access to our Online Leaders Training, where you can begin learning - You will receive access to the free Online Leaders Training, which will take between 3-4 hours to complete.
  - **Shop Access** - access to our online shop to purchase Group Materials for class - the Archdiocesan Pro-Life Office will pay for all start-up costs if needed.
  - **Community** - option to join private Facebook Leaders Group with almost 2000 leaders around the world

- **Church Listed in National Directory** - Once a start date is submitted, your group will be added to our National Directory for attendees to find on [embracegrace.com](https://embracegrace.com)
7. Once the Online Leaders Training is complete, you can start building your team, if you haven't already! God may have already put someone on your heart to reach out to or ask your church leadership to refer other women. We strongly advise 2-3 women commit to lead the Support Group at your church weekly.
  8. Begin Outreach - there is a whole training section on this topic, but here are our top four suggestions:
    - a. **Share at your church** - during weekend Masses, at a women's event or via your church's social media pages for church members. Or host a "Share the Love" event to launch the kickoff at your church! Intentionally invite women's groups including families with young children.
    - b. **Develop an outreach plan** to let your community know your church is starting a support group!
    - c. **Begin a plan to utilize prayer** within your Embrace Grace Ministry team as well as a parish as a whole (e.g. specific prayer intentions, submitting Mass intentions, Novenas, public rosaries...)
    - d. **Create a Social Media page** (think Facebook or Instagram) where you can connect directly with women in your community!
  9. The Archdiocesan Pro-Life Office can also provide support to your group by:
    - a. creating/printing/ordering promotional materials (business cards, banners, flyers, posters and social media graphics)
    - b. ordering supplies from Embrace Grace or other vendors such as group materials, business cards and banners).