

Miscarriage & Infant Loss Support

A brief resource guide to assist families who have experienced the loss of a child to miscarriage, stillbirth, or infant death.

You are loved, you are not alone in your loss, and God's Divine Mercy is infinite.

Funeral Masses & Liturgical Rites

The Church understands that burying the dead is one of the corporal works of mercy (CCC 2447). The Church also affirms, "As regards children who have died without Baptism, the Church can only entrust them to the mercy of God, as she does in her funeral rites" (CCC 1261).

Miscarried and stillborn babies are children who have died without Baptism. This may also be the case with children who die soon after birth. Please know that you have a right to bury your miscarried child like any other family member. *You also have a right to a Funeral or Memorial Mass for your child, no matter how early you miscarried, and even if you do not have bodily remains.*

Please speak to your local parish and priest about your options. Not only is this a vital corporal work of mercy, but the opportunity to seek healing in our Lord is invaluable.

Caring for Physical Remains

In cases of early pregnancy loss it may be difficult to preserve the remains of your child, but if you are able to do so, Miscarriage Collection Kits are available from organizations such as: **HeavensGain.org**

If you require surgical intervention to complete a miscarriage, Colorado Legal Statute 25-2-110.5 demands the proper care of your child's remains and their release to your family **if you request it**. Please be sure to ask the medical facility about your rights to your child's remains, if this is your family's situation, and rest assured that both hospital systems in our area have policies in place to serve you in your time of need.

Burial, Cremation & Memorial Options

In addition to traditional services, many Catholic cemeteries offer special sections devoted specifically to preborn children.

Catholic Cemeteries & Columbariums in the Diocese:
www.diocs.org/About/Catholic-Cemeteries

Check with local funeral parlors if cremation services are needed. Many in our area offer services at reduced or no charge for preborn children and infants.

Miscarriage Caskets and Vessels:
HeavensGain.org

Counseling & Support Groups

Stephen Ministry - Contact Melissa Smith at (719) 481-3511 ext. 1105 to be connected with a Stephen Minister near you. Stephen Ministers are lay counselors who have received extensive training on a variety of needs including grief counseling.

A full list of Diocesan Approved Counselors can be found on the Diocese website or by asking your local/parish point of contact listed above.

Miscarriage Support - One-on-one and group support are available from those who have walked through miscarriage loss and healing. Contact Jenni Helgoth at (719) 244-5031 or Ashley Slack at (719) 960-7197.

Additional Help & Healing

CatholicMiscarriageSupport.com

AMM.org > Pray With Us > Unbaptized Babies: Your Saints in Heaven

Consider scheduling a Mass Intention for your child with your local parish.

Attend a Pregnancy & Infant Loss Memorial Mass or Holy Innocents Mass

Request a Meal Train from your parish if this ministry is available.

