



St. Catherine of Siena, patron saint against miscarriages

St. Gianna Beretta Molla, patron saint of mothers & unborn children

- **Accompany the grief.** A pregnancy loss, no matter when it happens, can be as painful and devastating as losing a child at any other time, even if the parents never held the child in their arms. Help the family through the process of grief. Connect them with others who have experienced a similar loss so they know they are not alone.
- **Precious life lost.** Acknowledge the value of the tiny human life lost. Encourage them to name the child and offer to say a Mass or pray with them at the cemetery.
- **Gone but never forgotten.** The couple who lost a child during pregnancy likely thinks about the baby every day. Remembering the baby in conversation may bring comfort to the couple that their baby and parenthood still matters.
- **Rites and rituals bring healing.** Offer to hold a graveside service, Mass or other liturgical rite for their child. There are a variety of options available in the Order of Christian Funerals – Funeral Rites for Children. The Archdiocese of St. Louis Respect Life Apostolate and the Office of Sacred Worship co-developed a rite designed to meet the needs of parents whose child(ren) died before birth because of miscarriage, accident, or abortion. The ritual emphasizes the Church’s respect for the sacredness of all human life from the moment of conception – regardless of a child’s age or stage of development, acknowledging that all life, even the lives of those who are never born, impacts families and individuals. Additionally, some funeral homes will provide their services free of charge for miscarried babies and the Archdiocese Catholic Cemeteries offer free or reduced cost burials for babies.
- **Medical care.** Through charting and research of the biomarkers tracked with Creighton Model FertilityCare System, NaProTECHNOLOGY has been able to identify and develop medical protocols related to miscarriage. If the couple is seeking to understand what may have caused the miscarriage, refer them to the Office of NFP for more information.



Continued on back >

- **Avoid common reactions.** Some common responses to miscarriage may feel trite and dismissive to the couple. (i.e. “The baby is in a better place.” “It wasn’t meant to be.” “You have an angel in Heaven.” “You can always try for more.”)
- **Included in Mother’s Day and Father’s Day.** Include parents who have lost children in parish blessings and petitions on Mother’s Day and Father’s Day.



Refer To:

- **Miscarriage Resource Rack Card**
- **Mother’s Day and Father’s Day suggestions**
- **Blessing of Parents after a Miscarriage or Stillbirth** (from the Book of Blessings)
- **Funeral Readings for Children who Died before Baptism - Masses for the Dead**
- **Catholic Miscarriage Support – Burials and Names**
- **Pastoral Guidelines on the Celebration of Liturgical Rites for Mourning the Loss of an Unborn Child or Infant** – from Archdiocese of Saginaw
- **NaPro Physicians list**
- **NFP Providers list**
- **Red Bird Ministries - Catholic Grief Support Ministry**



See current links to these and other up-to-date resources at bit.ly/NFP-TP-Resources