

Order for the Naming and Commendation



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of an Infant Who Died before Birth

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF WICHITA

APPENDIX

Song suggestions for use during the Naming and Commendation (others may be used)

- ✦ Abide with Me – v. 1-3 – Lyte
- ✦ All Creatures of Our God and King – esp. v. 6
- ✦ All You Who Seek a Comfort Sure - KINGSFOLD
- ✦ Alleluia, Sing to Jesus – v. 1-4 – HYFRYDOL
- ✦ Be Not Afraid – Dufford
- ✦ Be Still, My Soul – Von Schlegel
- ✦ Behold the Lamb of God – v. 1,2,4 – Dufford
- ✦ By Name I Have Called You - Landry
- ✦ Christ Be Our Light – V 1-2 – Farrel
- ✦ Come to Me - Norbert
- ✦ Day Is Done - Quinn
- ✦ Earthen Vessels - Foley
- ✦ Eye Has Not Seen - Haugen
- ✦ Healer of Our Every Ill – Haugen
- ✦ Hail Mary, Gentle Woman - Landry
- ✦ Holy Darkness - Schutte
- ✦ Holy God We Praise Thy Name
- ✦ How Good the Name of Jesus Sounds - Newton
- ✦ How Lovely Is Your Dwelling Place - DeBruyn
- ✦ I am the Light of the World – Hayakawa
- ✦ I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say – Bonar
- ✦ I Know that My Redeemer Lives – DUKE STREET
- ✦ I Sought the Lord – FAITH
- ✦ I Walk to Walk as a Child of the Light - Thomerson
- ✦ Isaiah 49 – Landry
- ✦ Let the Children Come - Cooney
- ✦ Like a Child Rests - Walker
- ✦ Lord of All Hopefulness – SLANE
- ✦ Lord of the Living – CHRISTE SANCTORUM
- ✦ Love Divine, All Loves Excelling - HYFRYDOL
- ✦ Memorare - MATHER
- ✦ God Beyond On Praising - Perry
- ✦ God, Our Help in Ages Past – Watts
- ✦ God, You Search Me - Farrell
- ✦ On Eagle's Wings – Jonas
- ✦ On This Day, O Beautiful Mother
- ✦ Only a Shadow - Landry
- ✦ Open My Eyes – Manibusan
- ✦ Praise the Lord, Ye Heavens – ODE TO JOY
- ✦ Rain Down – Cortez
- ✦ Shelter Me, O God – Hurd
- ✦ Shepherd Me, O God – Haugen
- ✦ Song of Farewell – OLD HUNDRETH
- ✦ The King of Love My Shepherd Is – v. 1-2, 4-6 – ST. COLUMBA
- ✦ The Living God My Shepherd Is - Driscoll
- ✦ The Lord is Near - Balhoff
- ✦ We Shall Rise Again - Young
- ✦ We Will Rise Again - Haas
- ✦ You Are Mine – Haas
- ✦ You Are Near - Schutte

Remembrance of Commendation

CHILD OF

RESOURCES

Respect Life Social Justice Office:

316 260-3935 | www.respectlifesocialjustice.org

Catholic Charities Cana Counseling:

316 263-6941 or toll free 866-839-4327

Elizabeth Ministry International: www.elizabethministry.com

PUBLICATIONS

“Our Stories of Miscarriage, Healing with Words” by Rachel Faldet

“I Never Held You: Miscarriage, Grief, Healing & Recovery” by Ellen M. Dubois

“Miscarriage: Women Sharing from the Heart” by Rachel Faldet

“Mourning a Miscarriage” by Michaelene and Lunus Mundy

“When a Baby Dies” by Michelle Martin

“After Miscarriage: A Catholic Woman’s Companion to Healing and Hope”
by Karen Edmisten

*Was commended to the embrace of God,
who in his great mercy
gave us a new birth to a living hope
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.*

(1 Peter 1:3)

*May the angels and saints
lead this child to the place of light and peace
where one day we will be reunited.*

Date: _____

Signed: _____



Prayer
FOR THE *loss*
OF A CHILD

O God, You gave us a son/daughter, and in Your wisdom and love have called him/her home to You before us. To You, we humbly entrust this child, so precious in Your sight. Please listen to our humble prayer: grant that we may be reunited safely in Your Presence. Take him/her into Your arms and welcome him/her into paradise, where there will be no sorrow, no weeping nor pain, but the fullness of peace and joy with Your Son and the Holy Spirit forever and ever.

Through Your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ,
we beg this of You. Amen.

May the peace of God, which is beyond all understanding, bring you encouragement and strength to accept his will, and keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

R. Amen.

Then he blesses all present:

And may almighty God bless you all,
the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

23 A lay minister concludes the rite by signing himself or herself with the sign of the cross and saying:

May God give us peace in our sorrow, consolation in our grief, and strength to accept his will in all things.

R. Amen.

It is preferable to end the celebration with a suitable song.
(See Appendix)

This booklet may be given to the parents
as a keepsake and for reflection.

*Order for the
Naming and Commendation
of an Infant
Who Died before Birth*

Catholic Diocese of Wichita
Offices of Respect Life and Social Justice
and Worship
424 N Broadway
Wichita, KS 67202

Order for the Naming and Commendation of an Infant Who Died Before Birth

INTRODUCTION

1 In times of death and grief the Christian turns to the Lord for consolation and strength. This is especially true when a child dies before birth.

2 It often happens among the people of God that a child dies prior to birth due to miscarriage, accident, or for some other reason. If an infant is alive, he/she should be baptized if this is possible (CIC, Can. 871). However, when the baby is dead, baptism is not administered, since the sacraments of the Church are for the living. Nevertheless, the Christian community entrusts the child to God's all-embracing love and finds strength in this love and in Jesus' affirmation that the Kingdom of God belongs to little children (see Mt. 19:14).

3 The Order of Christian Funerals of the Church provides liturgical resources to assist the parents and other family members with their grief and help them deepen their faith and trust in the Lord. Accordingly, the Order of Christian Funerals contains adapted forms of the Vigil, the Funeral Liturgy and the Rite of Committal, which can be used for both baptized and unbaptized children and infants. In addition, a brief Rite of Final Commendation for an Infant is provided for use in the hospital, funeral home, or at the cemetery when the body is present.

Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

R. Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

21 Using the following or similar words, the minister invites those present to join in the Lord's prayer:

When Jesus gathered his disciples around him, he taught them to pray:

All say: Our Father...

CONCLUDING RITE

22 A minister who is a priest or deacon concludes the rite by blessing all present:

May the God of compassion be with you in your sorrow, and give you light and peace.

R. Amen.

May the God of all consolation raise you up from your grief.

R. Amen.

May the angels and saints lead him/her (or child's name)
to the place of light and peace
where one day
we will be brought together again.

19B If the body of the infant is NOT present

Using the following words, the minister commends the infant to God:

Lord God,
ever caring and gentle,
we commit to your love this little one [N.],
who brought joy to our lives for so short a time.
Enfold him/her in eternal life.

We pray for his/her parents
who are saddened by the loss of their child.
Give them courage
and help them in their pain and grief.
May they all meet one day
in the joy and peace of your kingdom,
with your Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit,
for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

20 From A or B above, the minister continues:

Lord Jesus,
lovingly receive this little child;
bless him/her and take him/her to your Father.
We ask this in hope, and we pray:

4 This order of naming and commendation is provided to assist the parents and family in their grief and console them with the presence of Christ, who embraced little children, wept at the death of a friend, and endured the pain and separation of death in order to render it powerless over those he loves. Christ still sorrows with those who sorrow and longs with them for the fulfillment of the Father's plan in a new creation where tears and death will have no place.

5 This order may be used by a priest or a deacon, and also by a layperson, who follows the rites and prayers designated for a lay minister.

ORDER OF BLESSING

INTRODUCTORY RITES

6 When all are gathered, a suitable song may be sung.
(See Appendix)

The minister says:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All make the sign of the cross and reply: **Amen.**

7 A minister who is a priest or deacon greets those present in the following or other suitable words, taken mainly from sacred Scripture:

May the Father of mercies, the God of all consolation, be with you all.

All reply: **And with your spirit.**

8 A lay minister greets those present in the following words:

Let us praise the Father of mercies, the God of all consolation.
Blessed be God for ever.

R. Blessed be God for ever.

18 Or:

Lord, God of all creation,
we bless and thank you for your tender care.
Receive this life you created in love
and comfort your faithful people in their time of loss with the
assurance of your unfailing mercy.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

As circumstances suggest, the minister in silence may sprinkle the
parents with holy water.

PRAYER of COMMENDATION

19A If the body of the infant IS present

Using the following words, the minister blesses the body of the
deceased child:

Trusting in Jesus, the loving Savior,
who gathered children into his arms
and blessed the little ones,
we now commend this infant [N.]
to the same embrace of love,
in the hope that he/she will rejoice
and be happy in the presence of Christ.

Then all join the minister in saying:

PRAYER of BLESSING for the PARENTS

16 The minister blesses the parents of the infant. The minister invites all to pray using these or similar words:

Let us pray to God who throughout the ages has heard the cries of parents.

Pause briefly for silent prayer.

17 A minister who is a priest or deacon says the prayer of blessing with hands outstretched over the parents; [a lay minister says the prayer with hands joined]:

Compassionate God,
soothe the hearts of **N.** and **N.**,
and grant that through the prayers of Mary,
who grieved by the cross of her Son,
you may enlighten their faith,
give hope to their hearts,
and peace to their lives.

Lord,
grant mercy to all the members of this family
and comfort them with the hope
that one day we will all live with you,
with your Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit,
for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

9 In the following or similar words, the minister prepares those present:

For those who trust in God,
in the pain of sorrow there is consolation,
in the face of despair there is hope,
in the midst of death there is life.
N. and **N.**, as we mourn the death of your child
we place ourselves in the hands of God
and ask for strength, for healing, and for love.

NAMING of the CHILD

10 The minister then asks the parents to name their child.

What name do you give your child?

The parents respond: **N.**

If it seems appropriate, the *Remembrance Card* found in the front may be filled out and given to the parents at this time. If the situation suggests, it may also be given at the end.

11 *If the body of the infant is present*, the minister may then trace the sign of the cross on or over the body of the infant, and if appropriate, may also invite the parents and others present to do the same, first saying:

In the name of the Christian community I sign **N.** (or this child) with the sign of the cross [and I invite his/her parents (and those who are present) to do the same.]

READING of the WORD of GOD

12 A reader, another person present, or the minister reads a text of sacred Scripture.

Brothers and sisters, listen to the words of the Gospel of Mark:
10:13-16

People were bringing children to Jesus that he might touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this he became indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the Kingdom of God like a child will not enter it." Then he embraced them and blessed them, placing his hands on them.

13 Or:

Isaiah 49:8-13

In a time of favor I answer you, on the day of salvation I help you.

Romans 8:18-27

In hope we were saved.

Romans 8:26-31

If God is for us, who can be against us?

Colossians 1:9-12

We have been praying for you unceasingly.

14 As circumstances suggest, the following responsorial psalm may be used.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Psalm 23: 1-3a, 4, 5, 6

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

In verdant pastures he gives me repose;
Beside restful waters he leads me;
he refreshes my soul. **R.**

Even though I walk in the dark valley

I fear no evil; for you are at my side
With your rod and your staff
that give me courage. **R.**

You spread the table before me

in the sight of my foes;
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows. **R.**

Only goodness and kindness follow me

all the days of my life;
And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
for years to come. **R.**

15 As circumstances suggest, the minister may give those present a brief explanation of the biblical text, so that they may understand through faith the meaning of the celebration.