

INTERCEDE



PRAY

Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be

REFLECT

Through the prophet Jeremiah, the Word of the Lord is proclaimed to us: “*Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you*” (Jer. 1:5). The life of each human person is carefully knit together by God himself. And whether an earthly life lasts moments, days, months, or decades, each person is created out of love to share eternal life with God.

It is estimated that as many as one in four pregnancies heartbreakingly ends in miscarriage. Many times, it occurs very early, before a couple even knows their child exists or before they have shared the news with family and friends. So, these profound losses may be unknown and unacknowledged by others. Because such losses tend not to be public, the many families who bear this cross may experience a lack of support. A couple whose baby has passed away may not know how to reach out for support or may be unaware of available diocesan miscarriage ministries. Miscarriage touches the lives of many people, yet often it remains unaddressed.

When someone shares this sorrow with us, although we may be unsure how best to comfort them, we are called to be present to them in their time of grief. We may even have the opportunity to suggest that a couple contact a diocesan miscarriage ministry where one is available. When we address the loss of a child through miscarriage, we give witness to the fact that each person, from conception onward, is a cherished, precious, and unique gift. As members of the Church, let us comfort those who mourn and honor the lives of their dear children, entrusted to the Lord. Together, we look with hope to the time when all our tears are dried, and our families are united in the joy of heaven.

ACT *(choose one)*

- Meditate and pray with the prayers, readings, and intercessions included in the “Blessing of Parents after a Miscarriage or Stillbirth” (bit.ly/blessing-miscarriage).
- Choose one day this week to go without screen time spent on entertainment as an offering to the Lord in solidarity with those grieving a child’s passing through miscarriage.
- Offer some other sacrifice or prayer that you feel called to do for this month’s intention.

ONE STEP FURTHER

Learn more about the sorrow of miscarriage and how you can support families who experience this profound loss: bit.ly/miscarriage-solace.

