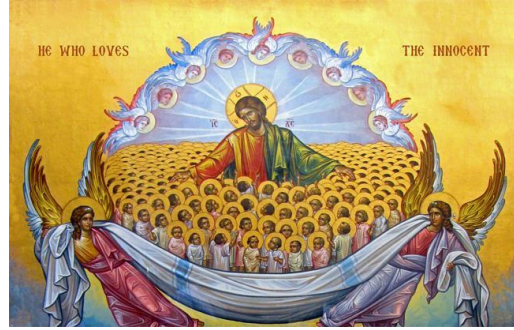


Burial of an Infant

*Your departure from this earthly life is a cause of grief and sorrow for your parents and all who love you, O little child; but in truth you have been saved by the Lord from sufferings and snares of many kinds. O Savior and Master of our life: comfort the faithful parents of this departed child with the knowledge that to innocent children, who have done no deeds worthy of tears, are granted the righteousness, peace and joy of Thy kingdom” [Canon Ode 9, The Service of Burial of an Infant].**



The Church recognizes the deep grief suffered by families at the loss of an infant through the creation of a rite of burial, *The Order for Burial of an Infant*. This service was established through the efforts of clergy and laymen throughout the United States who sought to offer the consolation of the Church to families at this sorrowful time.

The Church of the Annunciation has established a common burial site for infants of any gestation and after birth. There is no charge for burial in this area. Arrangements for this service should be made with the Rector and a member of the Funeral Team. Some families choose to have a private gathering at the cemetery and that can be arranged with the Rector and team member as well. If a funeral director is involved, it is necessary to contact the team as soon as possible.

This area is available to those mourning the loss of an infant decades ago or in the present. Also, a woman who is grieving the loss of an infant through abortion, in consultation with her parish priest, is welcome to symbolically bury their lost infant in this common plot. This may be arranged privately between the Rector and the individual with discreet assistance by a team member.

Families who wish to bury their infant and also to erect a monument in their infant's name will need to purchase a personal gravesite.

Numerous resources are available for families who have lost an infant:

We encourage you to obtain a copy of Matushka Jenny Schroedel's book, *"Naming the Child."*

Fr. Stephen Kostoff has written a beautiful description of the burial service for infants that may be found on the OCA website (www.oca.org), in his column *Reflections in Christ, An Infant's Burial*.

International Wave of Light, October 15th

In the Parish Ministries Resources section on the OCA website may be found an article by Matushka Denise Krause discussing the burial service and international observance recognizing infant loss throughout the world, *October: Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month*.

*Taken from Matushka Denies Krause's article on the OCA website, Parish Ministries section.