

# ORCHESTRA FOR OLIVER

Even the Shortest Lives Are Special

Resource for families who have experienced child loss

“I will not forget you.  
Behold, I have engraved you  
on the palms of my hands” (Isaiah 49:15–16).

## Prayers

*Here are some prayers you can use with your child(ren):*

### **Prayer for My Baby Sister/Brother**

Dear Jesus, I am sad that my baby sister/brother, *(name)* \_\_\_\_\_, has died. Please take care of him/her. I entrust *(name)* \_\_\_\_\_ to you. I look forward to having fun together with *(name)* \_\_\_\_\_ in heaven one day!

### **Prayer for My Family**

Dear God, my mom and dad are very sad. My whole family is sad because we miss my baby sister/brother, *(name)* \_\_\_\_\_. I know you love us and are close to us. Please help my family feel your love. Amen.

### **Prayer to Mary for All Unborn Children**

Dear Mary, you carried Jesus in your womb. Please ask Jesus to take care of all babies who are not yet born. Keep them safe for all their life and bring them to heaven.

# Keeping Memories

Here are some ideas for preserving and sharing memories of your baby's special life.

- Plant a garden like the family in the story, or plant a tree, a rosebush, or a sunflower.
- Have a picture of your baby, or your family with your baby, painted by a professional or emerging artist. Include the picture or a framed photo of your baby in future family photos.
- Make a necklace or bracelet with your baby's name or something that reminds you of him/her.
- Make a memory box with things from your time with your baby, including cards you received. Look through it on special days.
- Plan an annual event or ritual to remember your baby. Go to Mass, light a candle, make a cake, or have a picnic together.
- Make a Christmas tree ornament with your baby's name or picture.
- Tell your baby's story or write a poem.
- Perform acts of charity in memory of your baby. For example, each year on Christmas or their birthday, donate a gift for a child in need who is the same age they would be.

## Support and Resources

**Red Bird Ministries** is a Catholic grief support ministry that focuses on bereaved families who have experienced child loss of any age and circumstance, including pregnancy loss through miscarriage and stillbirth, and after birth as an infant, child, adolescent, or adult.

- To find possibilities for personalized care and spiritual support, visit <https://www.redbird.love/red-bird-families>
- For resources to read or listen to, browse: <https://www.redbird.love/resources-1>
- Check here to see if there is a Red Bird chapter near you: <https://www.redbird.love/chapters>

*Orchestra for Oliver: Even the Shortest Lives Are Special* may be purchased from [www.paulinestore.com](http://www.paulinestore.com).