

Frequently Asked Questions



What is Treasures In Our Hearts (TIOH)?

Treasures In Our Hearts is a ministry of Queen of the Miraculous Medal Catholic Parish in Jackson, Michigan. **TIOH** - a resource for families who suffer a pregnancy loss - is coordinated by volunteers, many who have also experienced the pain of losing a baby and/or grandbaby.

Does Treasures In Our Hearts help only Catholic families?

Treasures In Our Hearts helps families of all faiths.

How can Treasures In Our Hearts help?

Treasures In Our Hearts offers assistance to families who lose a child due to miscarriage or stillbirth. If needed, a **TIOH** volunteer will help you plan to say good-bye to your little one by making arrangements for a memorial or burial/interment service for your baby. We offer guidance, comfort, and the following resources: contacting a funeral home and/or cemetery, calling your priest, minister or deacon, providing a burial box and/or burial garment, planning a prayer service, as well as supplying references for grief support.

When is it appropriate to have a burial/interment for a baby lost during pregnancy?

It is proper to have a burial/interment at any stage of pregnancy loss. Many parents may be unaware of the option to bury/inter a baby that is less than 20 weeks gestational age.

When do I need to enlist the services of a funeral home?

Under Michigan law, your request for your child's remains cannot be refused. The State of Michigan requires you to enlist the services of a funeral home after 20 weeks of gestation; we recommend using a funeral home at any stage of loss if you have your baby's remains. Hospitals also have policies regarding miscarriages and stillbirths. **TIOH** has informed our local hospital and many doctors' offices of the services we provide.

How can I arrange for the transport of my baby's remains?

Contact **Treasures In Our Hearts**, and a ministry volunteer will provide you with the name of the funeral home that will transport your baby.

What will it cost for the burial/interment of my baby?

Treasures In Our Hearts, in a collaborative partnership with Sherwood Funeral Home and Roseland Memorial Gardens, will provide a memorial or burial/interment service at no charge. **TIOH** has, blessed by the generosity of many donors, purchased a Columbarium for the remains of miscarried babies. Roseland has a dedicated area called Baby Land to bury stillborn babies, within which space was donated for the **TIOH** Columbarium. There is a fee if you wish to have your baby's name engraved on the Columbarium or on a grave marker. Cost for burial/interment varies at other cemeteries.



What if I do not have the remains or body of my baby?

Some pregnancies end very early, which may prevent the retrieval of your baby's physical remains. Even without remains, we recommend that you name your baby. You may consider having a prayer service or a Mass for your little one depending on your religious affiliation. **Treasures In Our Hearts** offers the option of including your baby's name on the Memorial Wall of the Columbarium. Many families find comfort in having a special place to go and pray. There is a fee to add your baby's name to the Memorial Wall.

Should I think about a private burial/interment on my property?

Catholics believe that human remains should only be buried on blessed ground such as at Roseland Memorial Gardens or at a Catholic cemetery. Other faiths also have specific beliefs and traditions. **TIOH** does recommend that your baby's final resting place be located in a cemetery, thus providing you a location to visit for generations to come. If you wish to consider alternative options, be sure to check the laws and policies of the State of Michigan.

When will we "get over" the loss of our baby?

We do not think that you ever "get over" the loss of your baby. Grief has many phases; be patient and, if needed, seek the help of a medical professional, grief counselor, priest or minister. **Treasures In Our Hearts** lists references and links that you might find helpful on the *Resources: End of Pregnancy, Ministries, Publications, Websites, and Prayers* attachment found on the **TIOH** webpage.

How do we help our other children through this process?

Depending on their age and awareness of your pregnancy, your children will also feel a sense of loss; allow them to grieve with you. Be sure to comfort them, reassure them of your love, and listen to their doubts and fears. If you include your children in your grief, it will help them to process their own. Encourage them to draw a picture or write a letter to the baby; consider giving each child a doll, teddy bear, angel, or a little heart as a tangible remembrance of their baby brother or sister.

What if I had a miscarriage or stillbirth a long time ago and now want to have a memorial?

Each year, we invite all who have suffered the loss of a baby in the past, to remember their little one by adding their baby's name to the **Treasures In Our Hearts** Columbarium Memorial Wall at Roseland Memorial Gardens. Requests to include your baby's name need to be received by September 30, to be added in October. There is a fee for this service. Please complete and return the form included on the Burials/Internments and Memorials Attachment found on the **TIOH** webpage.