

Naming Ceremony

This Naming Ceremony may be celebrated in a hospital room or chapel or the family home or a parish Stillness and/or Eucharistic Chapel. This ceremony is simple and specific to the family who is grieving. A hymn may be added at the beginning or the end if the family desires. Personalize according to the circumstances and needs of the family.

Opening Prayer

Leader: Oh God. You took children into Your arms and blessed them. Be with us now as we acknowledge this baby as an important member of this family.

All: Amen

Question

Leader: What name do you give your child?

All: Her/his name shall be _____

Leader: Let her/his name be called _____

Blessing

Leader: God, You said: “Let the little children come to me and do not stop them. The kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” Pour out the power of your blessing on _____.

In Your mercy, consider the faith and devotion of these parents.

Scripture Reading

Jeremiah 1:4-5 or

Matthew 11:28-30 or

Psalm 33:20-22 or

Psalm 31:2-3 or

Matthew 19:13-15



Prayer Response

Leader: Mysterious Lord of Life and Death, a very part of our life has died in the death of this child.

All: Lord God, You who are also a parent, You surely know our pain at the loss of our beloved child. Support us, our God, at this hour and always.

Prayers of Petition

- Leader:** Let us make our desires known to the Lord in Your special love and kindness for children, bathe this child in Your light. As You entrusted her/him to this family, accept her/him once again into Your loving arms. Let us pray...
- All:** Lord, hear our prayer.
- Leader:** Bless the lives of these parents. May they know Your sustaining love and the love of family and friends. Let us pray...
- All:** Lord, hear our prayer.

Closing Prayer

- Leader:** Merciful God, we do not understand why you would give life only to take it away again so soon. Comfort our friends whose hearts grieve. Help them to trust in Your goodness and wisdom at a time when their own wisdom they may question. That together with this Your child they may obtain Your promises in the world to come.
- All:** Amen
- Leader:** May you go in peace with God and each other.

This Naming was created by Marcia Boehm, ACSW, and Sister Angele Hinkey, D.C. and published in [Bitter Sweet...Hello Good Bye: A Resource in planning Farewell Rituals When a Baby Dies](#) By Share, 1988