



“In Gods Arms”

*God, gentle Searcher of hearts and our most loving Consoler
Grant that as we grieve the loss of this dear child,
We may find confidence in your love
And hope for the future.
Give us your strength in the days ahead,
And peace in our hearts.*

The Rev. Msgr. Michael Heintz
The Catholic Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

No parent ever wants to lose a child but if the unthinkable happens to you, there are caring people in the community who will help with direction and provide options when tough, unimaginable decisions have to be made.

Palmer Funeral Homes and Southlawn Cemetery are family owned and have been part of this community for many years. K. R. and Kerry Palmer, along with their caring staff, realize the difficulty in making these decisions but are encouraged by the ability to give something so important back to our community.

When people are faced with an infant death, there are a number of options available to families.

- If your child is in the early pregnancy stage and a stillbirth occurs, you may choose to be part of “In God’s Arms”. “In God’s Arms,” founded in 2006 through St. Joseph Regional Medical Center, Palmer Funeral Homes, and Southlawn Cemetery, is a special section within Southlawn that gives babies a place to rest and provides loved ones a place to visit and mourn the death of their child.
- Burial and Memorial Services are conducted quarterly. Palmer Funeral Homes will take care of all of the details. Our staff will receive your infant and provide the burial. St. Joseph Regional Medical Center will make contact for the memorial service that takes place at the gravesite. There is absolutely no charge for any of these services but this choice is limited to early pregnancy losses (20 weeks of gestation or less).

For later pregnancy losses and infant deaths, Palmer Funeral Homes have another option available for families. This choice includes funeral planning when a cemetery is chosen or cremation is selected.

- With this option, Palmer Funeral Homes will receive your infant, meet with you and your family, and listen to your needs. Choices may include a visitation and funeral, simple graveside service or cremation. Whatever decision you make, Palmer's is here to help you.
- The professional services, casket, funeral services, cremation if chosen, are all available at no expense. Burial options at most cemeteries carry nominal charges.

Decisions like these are very difficult but it is our hope that information such as this is helpful for those who need answers. The staff at Palmer Funeral Homes is always willing to answer your calls or meet with you in person at a time that is convenient for you. An appointment can be made at the hospital, at your home, or at any of our five funeral home locations.

Your priest or minister can also help provide solace and comfort. If you are not affiliated with a particular church, you are encouraged to call the funeral home to speak with someone who might help you or provide you with a with a book from our lending library.