

BLESSING OF INFANT GOWNS

Advent means "arrival" or "coming." In this Advent season, we know the arrival of a child is one of life's greatest expectations. All too often, though, that excited anticipation turns to grief when the coming of the child is darkened by the loss of that new life.

As the Church, our role is to respond to God's love in all that we do. One of the ways Divine Street truly reaches out to others in a way that glorifies God is to provide infant burial gowns for those families whose new child has been lost.

Our infant gowns are created and hand-smocked by members of this church, and this morning we pray God's blessing for each child who will wear this gift and each family member who suffers the loss of that child.

Prayer of Blessing

Almighty God, loving Parent of all your children, we are saddened that our babies are sometimes taken from us so soon. At times the burdens of life almost overwhelm us, but still we put our full trust in you. We know that through your Son Jesus Christ you are with us always.

We pray for the comfort of your loving arms to surround all those who suffer the loss of a child.

Bless these gifts of infant gowns that those families who receive one may feel the love with which they are created and given.

Bless the giver and the receiver, and may each one sense your tender mercy. May these beautiful gowns help to ease some small part of the pain.

Soothe the hearts of those who grieve. Give them strength to go forward and trust that your love never ends.

We thank you for the hope that you give us through your Son Jesus Christ. When all else fails, you still are God. Keep true in us the love with which we hold one another, and may our efforts here bring glory to your name. Amen.

Be sure to include our Divine Street staff on your Christmas card list!

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Your year-end contributions must be:

- received in the church office OR
- post marked by the US Postal Service

NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 31, 2016. If received later than that, your contribution will not be included on your 2016 statement.

Please remember, the church office will be CLOSED:
Friday, December 23 through Wednesday, December 28.

The church office will be OPEN:
Thursday, December 29 and Friday, December 28.

The church office will be CLOSED Monday, January 2.