Dearest Grandparents & Friends,

“God’s Holy Gifts for God’s Holy People”

“I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church and the Communion of Saints.”

But how does one define or explain the meaning of the Communion of Saints? Our Catechism defines the Communion of Saints as “in holy things (sancta) and among holy persons (sancti). The faithful (sancti) are fed by Christ’s holy body and blood (sancta) to grow in communion of the Holy Spirit (koinonia) and to communicate it to the world.

In the month of November, the Church celebrates our Saints, holy people who unite us with the past and show us the way forward. They unify us, bridging the gap between heaven and earth, interceding to the Lord in our times of need and serving as role models for us to emulate.

We often think of the Saints as leading totally holy lives but there are a number with sinful pasts who can teach us much. The expression, “Every Saint has a past and every Sinner has a future” rang true for St. Augustine, an alcoholic and philanderer, St. Matthew, a despised tax collector, St. Mary of Egypt, a prostitute, St. Olga, a murderer, etc. I recently heard a Priest say that we should meet those we love where they are until we can help to get them to be where God wants them to be. Good advice to us as Grandparents.

There is a candle lighting for you in the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham and in the Shrine of Our Lady of Knock.

Love and Prayers,

Catherine Wiley—Founder of the Catholic Grandparents Association

In This Issue

- Catherine Wiley’s Presentation in Gibraltar
- Adopt-a-Highway Clean-Up
- Saint Peter Grandparents Mass
- Preparing for Advent
- Children’s Activity Page
- Resources, Ideas and Discussion Topics for Nov/Dec
- CGA items for purchase
- Forthcoming Events
- In memorium of Grandparents
Catherine Wiley’s Presentation in Gibraltar
6th and 7th November 2019

Bishop of Gibraltar Carmelo Zammit, Catherine Wiley, Louise Napoli, Head Teacher, Loreto Convent School, Gibraltar and Rosemarie Therese Isola
Adopt-A-Highway Clean-Up

Kathleen Mironchik, CGA, St. Joseph Catholic Church, New Paltz, New York. Thank You Intrepid Grandparents for your hard work and great example!!!
Saint Peter Grandparents Mass
Pictures by Nikki Mahn
Preparing for Advent
“Adventus” Latin for “Coming”

The beautiful Season of Advent, a time of anticipation and waiting is an ideal time to focus on teaching the real meaning of Christmas and creating traditions. Celebrating Advent keeps the focus on Jesus rather than Santa Claus, presents and commercialism.

Advent Traditions Around the World

The two most common Advent practices around the world are the Advent wreath and candles and the Advent calendar. The wreath is a circle representing God’s continuous love and the soul’s immortality.

**China** Chinese Christians light up their homes with colorful paper lanterns during Advent.

**Croatia** Some Croats begin Advent on November 25th, St. Catherine’s Day.

**Germany** Families set up their Advent wreath and gather each Sunday to sing Christmas carols and light a candle.

**Mexico** A beautiful tradition celebrated in Mexico is Las Posadas (The Inns). The nine day celebration marks the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem.

**Scandanovia** Families light candles around a wheel and offer prayers to the God of Light (Christ Our Light).

**The Philippines** Misa De Gallo, the Mass of the rooster, is celebrated in the Philippines beginning on December 16 at 4 AM

**Quiz your Grandchildren (& yourself)**

How many Sundays are there in Advent? What holy day of obligation falls during Advent? What traditional Advent hymn expresses our longing for the coming of Jesus? What color is used in church during Advent? What color is used on the third Sunday of Advent?

**Saints celebrated in Advent**

- Feast of St. Nicholas: December 6
- Feast of the Immaculate Conception: December 8
- Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe: December 12
- Feast of St. Lucy: December 13
Catholic Grandparents Association
St Peter, Kirkwood, Missouri, US

Awe and Wonder! Thank you St. Peter Grandparents Ministry! Awesome Advent Activity sharing the beauty of the season, bringing three generations together.
Children’s Activity Page

We please ask Ministry Leaders and members to submit pictures and stories of events, meetings and relevant happenings to info@catholicgrandparentsassociation.org

CGA Ministry Leaders
By invitation only, we have a new Facebook Page for CGA Ministry Leaders only. Please request to be included in the closed group. The page will allow us to share prayer, ideas, events, etc.

Catholic Grandparents Association Ministry Leaders
Resources, Ideas, Discussion Topics – Nov/Dec

"My God, how very much You love me! When I think of that Love, I feel a sudden surge of courage to face the future. Even death becomes merely the beautiful moment when the One Who loves, and the one who is loved, meet face to face."
- Mother Angelica

I plead with you-never, ever give up on hope, never doubt, never tire, and never become discouraged. Be not afraid.
- St. John Paul II

Listen to the Lord's Words in the Psalms and the New Testament.

Call to Prayer

For those nearing the end of life, may they receive care that respects their dignity as they place their hope in the promise of eternal life.
CGA Ministry Leaders & Members

Our beautiful, exclusive new medal of Saint Joachim and Saint Anne with their grandson, Jesus is now available.

In Keeping with the charism which is the Catholic Grandparents Association, our exclusive medal has at its center, the Child Jesus holding a Red rose representing the Blessed Virgin Mary as the Mystic rose. Jesus is surrounded by His Grandparents, St. Joachim and St. Anne so that together, three generations, Grandparents, parents and children are represented as one family symbolizing the communion of the Holy Trinity. Working with renowned arts and craftsmen in Rome, this exquisite design came to fruition after many years of searching for the image that would truly depict the beauty, selfless love and devotion that Grandparents have for their grandchildren. It is our hope that this beautiful image signifying God’s plan for the sanctity and unity of familial generational bonds will bring great joy, encouragement and support to Grandparents in passing on their faith.

Sterling Silver - €20, $20 *Silver Plated €10, $10 * Gold Plated - €10, $10

Plus shipping, medal only

To purchase a medal please send an email to catholicgrandparents@gmail.com or call 888-510-5006 for US enquiries or 01328 560333 for Ireland and UK enquiries
Forthcoming Events

Bambinelli Sunday

December 15th, 2019 Mass

Over the past number of decades, on the Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) children and adults bring their Baby Jesus figures from their homes to St Peter's Square where they are blessed by the Pope.

This year we will celebrate 'Bambinelli Sunday' at our Mass on the Third Sunday of Advent (December 15th).

All children and families are invited to bring the Baby Jesus figure from their homes to be blessed. Families can make their own 'Bambinelli' if they wish.

The CGA is delighted that the beautiful Advent tradition, Bambinelli Sunday, is spreading.

Each Parish is welcome to develop their own approach, following the tradition. If you’re interested in bringing this to your Parish, please contact us for a pdf file of the poster.

In Remembrance of Grandparents who have been called home – forever in our hearts...

Weep Not For Me
Unknown Author

Weep not for me though I have gone
Into that gentle night
Grieve if you will, but not for long
Upon my soul’s sweet flight

I am at peace, my soul’s at rest
There is no need for tears
For with your love I was so blessed
For all those many years

There is no pain, I suffer not
The fear is now all gone
Put now these things out of your thoughts
In your memory I live on

Remember not my fight for breath
Remember not the strife
Please do not dwell upon my death
But celebrate my life

If you would like to send names of loved ones/members who you would like to have remembered in an issue contact us via our email address info@catholicgrandparentsassociation.com