

Passing on the Faith



LENT

This is the feeling, the love, that I ask that you tell your grandchildren about when you talk to them about Lent. Tell them not about what Jesus sacrificed and that we should sacrifice, but about how much he loved, and loves us, and if we want to truly honor him in this special time we need to share that love with others.



Our   
 Grandparents
Are Special 
 

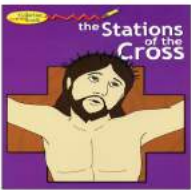
Lent Prayers & Activities For Children

By Colleen Rooney

Every year the Church gives us the season of Lent. A season of penance and renewal. Penance is the turning away from sin and the opening of our hearts to more fully receive God’s gifts. The renewal is a reminder of our baptism when through water and the words of the priest or deacon, the Holy Spirit of God first entered our souls, removing original sin and flooding us with grace. As Catholic grandparents, how can we help our grandchildren to make room for Jesus and experience more of his life and grace this Lent? The following are a few suggestions.



If you live near your grandchildren, invite them over to make pretzels! Pretzels were traditionally Lenten fare. Made originally of flour, water and salt, their shape is in the form of arms folded in prayer. Serve the pretzel and use it as a springboard to explain prayer as a conversation with Jesus. Burying the Alleluia is a fun and instructive activity. Catholics do not say the Alleluia at Mass during Lent, the Church’s peni-

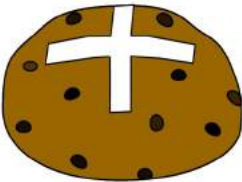


tential season. Alleluia means “praise Yahweh.” The Alleluia returns at the Easter Vigil Mass, the Church’s season of rejoicing. For instructions for burying the alleluia or making palm crosses, go to www.catholicicing.com. The Stations of the Cross are prayed in many parishes.

When you go, invite your grandchildren to join you. For younger grandchildren, outdoor Stations of the Cross are a better option, or *The Stations of the Cross* coloring book from Pauline Books & Media. Children’s Station of the Cross booklets are available from www.autom.com.



Children need concrete activities. There are printable Lenten maps which take the child day by day on a journey from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday. You and your grandchild determine the activities. I like the linked paper chain activity made from purple construction paper. Every good deed adds a link to the chain. The challenge is to see how



many good deeds can be made before Easter arrives! There are more children’s activities at <https://www.pinterest.com/colleenmarie51/lenten-activities-for-kids/> For your crafter/artist a bread dough crown of thorns or crucifix will draw them into the deeper meaning of Lent.



Hot Cross buns, scones for the Annunciation and Cream Puffs for the solemnity of St. Joseph will keep baking hands busy, <https://foodsandfestivitiesofthechristianyear.blogspot.com>, archive 2015.

Lent is a time for fasting. We associate fasting with food but it is also a time to fast from TV, electronics and technology. We can help our grandchildren fill their time with good books. Suggest reading a saint whose feast day falls during Lent to fill their technology fast! *The Lent-Easter Book* by Joan Marie Arbogast is full of activities, stories and printables suitable for grades K – 3 and 4- 8. More books for children can be found on <https://www.pinterest.com/colleenmarie51/lent-and-easter-books-for-children>. Operation Rice Bowl or a similar charity is a way to share money saved from sacrificed treats. Show your grandchildren pictures of how the money will be used, so they can see how their sacrifices help others.

Our love for Christ and the Church is the greatest gift we can share with our grandchildren. Immerse yourself in the season, and be assured of the many graces and blessings the Lord will bestow on you and your family.



Why didn’t I think of that?????????

A simple, yet brilliant way to teach

The Sign of the Cross



Labsheeda National School, County Clare, Ireland

The staff of our national school led by Liam Woulfe, together with Grandparents and parents were together for Mass in our parish Church on Wednesday 1st February. Our children had issued invitations to parents and Grandparents and for the Mass provided choir musicians with whistles and we had a lone piper playing traditional pipes (one of the pupils).

As another step to upcoming communion, three of our pupils lit special candles blessed by Father Tom, our parish Priest.

The children St. Bridget that were Father Tom the altar for ioners to take gratefully

On Friday 3rd Helen Flana- our Grand- went to the spent some the children



had made crosses blessed by and left at our parish- and were received.

February, gan, one of parents school and time with with photo-

graphs of days gone by and they all enjoyed each other's company very much.

On the first of February 2017 the 6th class pupils of **Coolard National School** held Grandparents Day in the classroom.

First we had a short prayer service by Father Hegarty which included a few songs, readings and prayers from the pupils.

Afterwards, Ann and Mrs. Wren made tea and coffee for the pupils to serve their Grandparents. There were tasty buns and lovely home-made biscuits included.

Mary Power's Grandfather, Donal, brought in a historical World War One medal won by his father, Michael Enright. We were invited to the altar and held Brigid Crosses for our photo. Overall it was a brilliant and enjoyable day.

By Sarah Lynch

Scoil San Isador, Boherlahan, Cashel, Co.

Tipperary



We have thanked the many Grandfathers and Grandmothers who visited our school on Wednesday, February 1st for Grandparents Day.

Each classroom had a lovely altar with lighted candles remembering Grandparents who have gone to their eternal rest.

The children were enthralled with the stories shared with them from the past, school life, social life, hair styles, fashion, dances at crossroads—the list is endless.

We thanked them sincerely and have promised to encourage our pupils to take care of our precious world handed on from all of them to value the importance of things in life.

St. Furseys NS Haggardstown Dundalk

Grandparents Day



Save the

WMOF

August



Date

Dublin

2018

A grandfather is someone with silver in his hair and gold in his heart.

Our Grandparents Around The World



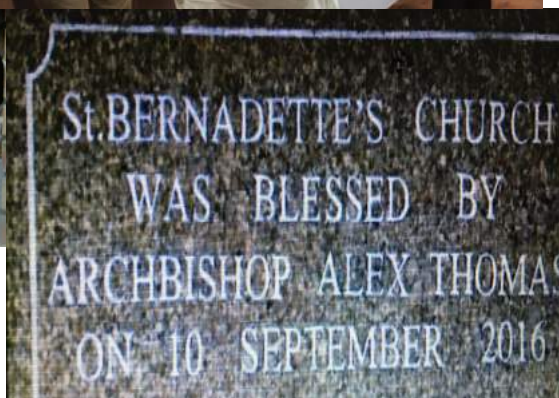
Statue of Our Lady of Walsingham from the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, England presented to Bishop Lopes, Cathedral of Our Lady of Walsingham, Houston, Texas

Tea and Scones with the Bishop

Established in 2012 as the principal church of the Ordinariate of Saint Peter, Bishop Lopes serves as the first Bishop of the Ordinariate.



CGA member, Dorothea and her husband Philip, helped to raise funds for the building of this Church in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.



Let Your Faith Be Bigger Than Your Fear

A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER

We bring you Greetings of Love, Faith & Hope as we enter into the Holy Season of Lent where our focus once again comes back to the family and particularly to our Grandchildren.

In all of time, there than the Crucifixion of journey through Lent, that taught us the true down your life for the that there is no sacrifice won't make for the children.

During this season, and pray for those from challenges of mented families and those Grandparents private Gethsemane, lives. We endure and because we know: steadfast love en- fulness to all genera-



Monsignor Carlos Simon Vazquez,, Undersecretary to Cardinal Farrell, Cardinal Farrell and Catherine Wiley

Through God's grace Spirit, the Catholic has gone from an organization to a movement. On December 19, I had the great honor to represent all of us when I was graced with a meeting with Cardinal Kevin Farrell, former Bishop of the Diocese of Dallas Texas and now Prefect of the Vatican Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life in Rome. Cardinal Farrell greeted us enthusiastically telling us that Grandparents are never as important to the future of the Church as they are today. We pray for Cardinal Farrell in his new role and for all who are involved in the tremendous job of planning the World Meeting of Families in Dublin in 2018. We look forward to the part that the CGA will play in the Conference and we invite all of you to join us for the Conference and for all the activities that we are planning especially for you, our members.

Please know how much we love and appreciate all of you and that you and your families are always in our prayers. Our Church is a world-wide loving community where common people that come together can attain uncommon results. We thank God for all of you and for this solemn season of Lent because we believe that "weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning". May the blessings of Saint Joachim and Saint Anne be with you and with your families in this season and always.

was no greater sacrifice Jesus. Each year as we we reflect on His sacrifice meaning of love and laying ones you love. We know fice that a Grandparent precious gift of their Grand-

we especially remember Grandparents suffering separation, divorce, frag- loneliness. We pray for going through their own as we all experience in our praise God at all times For the Lord is good, His dures forever and His faith- tions. Psalm 11:5

and the power of the Holy Grandparents Association

CGA Philippines





Congratulations to Archbishop Gilbert Garcera, newly named Archbishop of Lipa in Batangas, Philippines. Shown here with Catherine Wiley, CGA Founder, at the World Meeting of Families in Milan. All our prayers and best wishes, Archbishop Garcera.

Saints of Lent

March 3 Saint Katherine Drexel March 9 Dominic Savio March 19 Saint Joseph

March 7 Perpetua and Felicity March 17 Saint Patrick March 25 Solemnity of the Annunciation

ANNOUNCEMENT




Catholic Grandparents Association
First Annual Retreat/Conference
Wednesday & Thursday
26th & 27th April 2017
Dominican Retreat Centre, Tallaght Village, Dublin 24

theme "Helping our Children and Grandchildren to know, love and serve God in these highly secular times" through discussions, workshop and resources.
An opportunity to meet, share and pray with other like minded people

Speakers
Fr. Enda Brady
Fr. Benny McHale "Grandparents in these secular times"
Mrs. Kate Liffey "Working to share the joy of the Gospel with children and grandchildren"
Catherine Wiley "Will our Grandchildren be Catholics"

Two days with full board all inclusive €160 per person (ensuite single rooms)
Non residential attendance for two days €120 per person (meals included)

Everybody welcome, limited space available, early booking essential
Further information and application form available
from Connie on 098 24877 email catholicgrandparents@gmail.com



easy access from M50, close by to Luas Station connections to Heuston and Connolly Stations

First Annual CGA Retreat/Conference, Dublin, Ireland

Speakers *Discussion * Prayer* Reflection * Resources *Support

Speakers to include:

Father Enda Brady

Father Benny McHale

Catherine Wiley, Founder, CGA

Kate Liffey, National Director for Catechetics

Opportunity for Confession

In collaboration with the Diocese of Philadelphia, we're diligently at work planning our first CGA Conference in August of 2017. Interested in a Conference in your Diocese? Please contact us to discuss the possibility—phone 713-244-4217 or e-mail henryphil413@att.net.

Our newest USA Chapter (as of this mailing)*** Our Lady of Angels, Woodbridge, Virginia



**Always
Believe
In Angels**

Your commitment, love and creativity amaze us every day. Here are just a few ideas that our Chapter Leaders have shared. Please forgive us if yours are not included in this issue. Editor's disclaimer: As a Graphic Artist, I'm a really good Registered Nurse and most of the time (always), I have my eleven awesome Grandchildren on the brain.



Saint Jude the Apostle

Dunwoody, Georgia, USA



**Christ the Good Shepherd,
Spring, Texas, USA**



**The work is hard, but the
rewards are out of this
world!**