

Joy AND BLESSINGS



Passing on the faith and keeping prayer at the heart of family life



My Very Dear Grandparents and Friends,

For me, Lent is The beginning of the end, a reminder of our own mortality. Our Holy Father told us we should become reconciled to death, to prepare for it. Nobody likes to talk about death or think of it, this is the best time, as we Journey with Our Lord Jesus Christ towards the glory of our resurrection.

Lent is a time of waiting, reflecting and prayer. It is a time when you can truly be the best version of yourself. By taking stock of your life, what you have done, what you have failed to do. What you would like to do. You will. be amazed at what you remember with a loving heart.

I count down the days to Good Friday "CRUCIFIXION DAY" as I reflect of my life and the countless ways that I have contributed to the suffering and death of my Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, I pray for forgiveness and reconciliation with all those alive and dead whom I may have hurt, offended, inured or neglected in any way.

I earnestly pray for the suffering souls in Purgatory, particularly those who have nobody to pray for them. I pray for anyone I might be keeping out of heaven, by being unable to forgive them for some hurt they may have caused me in this world. I pray for their forgiveness and reconciliation.

Every morning going to Mass, I pass a rehab centre for addictions, where many young people are gathered outside. My heart goes out to them and I pray that someone somewhere today will have the courage and the strength to say NO. I pray for the families who are feeling despair and pain as they continue to hope and pray.

I pray for the people in prison, that they may feel the love and mercy of Jesus, like the good they're, the companion of Jesus on the cross. I pray for Grandparents who have been separated from their grandchildren for whatever reason.

I pray for the grace to help my children and grandchildren to make their Easter duty. To try and help them to go to confession and to receive Holy Communion.

I pray for all Grandparents and families that they may find ways to peace, forgiveness and reconciliation during this beautiful season of promise. I look forward to meeting all of you one day in our heavenly homeland where all our troubles cease in eternal peace with our risen living Lord Jesus Christ.

May St. Joachim and St. Anne, parents of Mary, Grandparents of Jesus, bless you and your families all the days of your life.



With love and prayers

Catherine Wiley

Founder of The Catholic Grandparents Association

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ

This Easter Season remember our risen saviour who gave his life on the cross so that we may live.

We are celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ

Grandparents please tell your Grandchildren
the reason for the season

Wishing you and your families a happy, holy,
joyous, grace filled Easter.

The holy sacrifice of the Mass in being offered
for your intentions



*With love and prayers from
Catherine and All of us at the
Catholic Grandparents Association*

**Stories Of A Generation with Pope Francis |
Official Trailer | Netflix**

Recommended highly for viewing



World Day
for Grandparents
and the Elderly
2024

"Do not cast me off in my old age"

cf. Psalm 71:9,

**World Day for Grandparents and
the Elderly**

July 28, 2024



LORD, TEACH ME HOW TO GROW OLD

Help me to recognise
the good things in my life;
grant me the courage to
accept my limitations
ceding my place to others
without resentment or complaint.
May I grow out of my attachment
to things,
seeing in this process a wise law
of Your Providence which
regulates time and presides over
the life of generations.
Grant Lord,
that I may still be of some use
to the world,
through doing my small jobs,
but more importantly through
the witness of my patience and
goodness,

my serenity, my joy and peace.
Give me, Lord, Your strength
to face up to the difficulties
of each day,
and especially to sickness and to
loneliness.
May the last years of my mortal life
be a happy sunset.
In prayer and charity,
understanding and hope,
may I know how to grow old and
to die with the kind of serenity and
courage that You, Lord, showed on
the cross,
so that one day I may rise
to the glory of Your Father and our
Father,
and to meet those who have
gone before me!
Amen.



Deep and Spirit filled sharing

We would like to thank everyone who attended our Faith Café on 12th March with our guest speaker **Archbishop Kieran O'Reilly**, who gave us a blessed evening.

We look forward to our next session on Tuesday 9th April.

Inspiring Faith Café Quotes *Attribute to Archbishop Kieran O'Reilly*

‘It is for our Grandchildren to recognize the mystery of the faith that we hold dear to the way we break bread with them through
“listening, hospitality, and sharing.”

“All the actions of Grandparents are under the radar.”

“Grandparents have a special relationship with us. They have a special way of listening through the heart.”



Our next Faith Café



Save the Date

ARCHBISHOP
GILBERT GARCERA

Register for our Next Faith Café

[Click here](#)

Ministry news



Catherine Wiley with Monsignor Patrick Dubois, Rector, Epiphany Cathedral, Venice, Florida

On a recent visit to the beautiful Cathedral of The Epiphany in Venice Florida, Catherine Wiley was overjoyed and delighted to meet and spend time with some of the Grandparents at their ministry for Grandparents and The Elderly and to present Monsignor Dubois with the commemorative medal from The CGA of St. Joachim and St. Anne.

Daily news



ARCHDIOCESE of MIAMI



Catherine Wiley presenting commemorative medals of St. Joachim and St. Anne and discussing the future development of The Ministry for Grandparents and Elders, which was first established in the Archdiocese of Miami on the 20th February 2020, with Archbishop Thomas Wenski, Diocese of Miami and Stephen Colella, cabinet secretary of Parish Life in the Archdiocese of Miami.

CGA Ministry news from Saint Catherine of Siena, Wichita, Kansas – USA



Starting a Grandparents Ministry in your Parish - By Sharon Witzell, CGA Ministry Leader

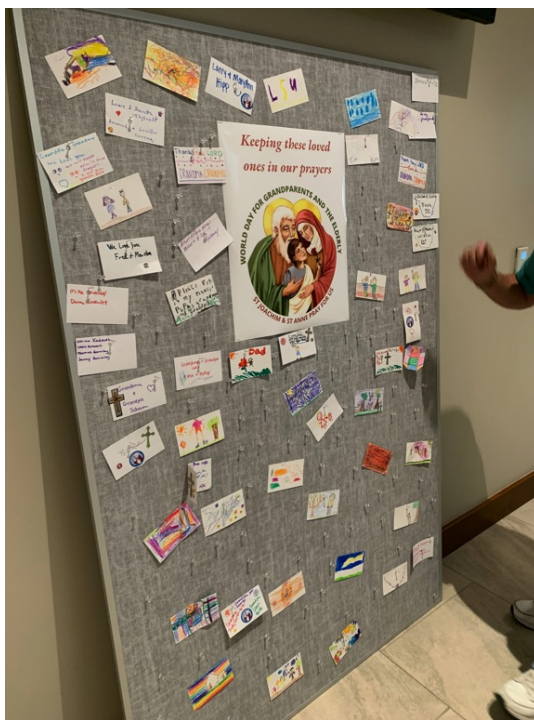
I started a Grandparent's Ministry in my parish, St. Catherine of Siena in Wichita, Kansas by first checking out the information on the Catholic Grandparents Association website under the "Ministry" link.

In 2017, I contacted the International Office of the CGA by email expressing my interest in pursuing a Ministry for Grandparents.

As required, I first went to my pastor to get permission to start the Ministry and secured a time and place for our monthly meetings. I decided to have our meetings on the First Friday of the month because I noticed many older people attend mass already on First Friday.

Each month we pray the Rosary together for our grandchildren and we attend mass together.

Since I am a trained teacher, I have most recently used **“The Catholic Grandparents Handbook Creative Ways to Show Love, Share Faith, and Have Fun”** by Lorene Hanley Duquin.



I teach them the main points in the chapter and then use the prayers

and questions for reflection at the end of each chapter to generate a discussion.

On the week of the **World Day of Prayer for Grandparents and the Elderly** our parish priest set out note cards in the back of the Church and told everyone in Church to write down the names of their grandparents living or dead on one of the note cards

All the cards were collected and posted in the gathering area for a full month and our parish prayed at each mass for the Grandparents named.

Because I work full time for our diocese, for the last three years we have had a Grandparents Conference with a guest speaker for Grandparents from all parishes in our Diocese on the feast day of St. Joachim and Ann. This year it falls on Friday, July 26.

The first year I had a local couple from our diocese share some of the things they do to pass on their faith to their grandchildren. I also included a priest who told us all the ways his Grandparents influenced his faith and his vocation to the priesthood. Marilyn Henry, CGA International Ministry Coordinator was also a Guest Speaker.

I tell grandparents to share when anything exciting happens with their grandchildren. For example, one Grandmother told us after we had been praying for a year together, that her daughter decided to put her grandchildren in Catholic Schools.

Because we all pray for each other's grandchildren, all the members of our Ministry can take credit. We know that Grandparent's prayers are very powerful. We also learn tips and ideas to pass on the faith from each other.

Sharon Witzell, CGA Ministry, St. Catherine of Sienna, Wichita, Kansas, USA

Sharon Witzell, CGA Ministry, St. Catherine of Sienna, Wichita, Kansas, USA

A Prayer for Families and Grandparents

Composed by the late Msgr, Joseph Quinn, former PP Knock, to coincide with the First National Grandparents Pilgrimage on Saturday, 22nd September 2007, at Our Lady's Shrine, Knock, Co. Mayo.

God of the Ages
we praise and thank you.
From generation to generation
You have been our refuge and strength.
You give your gifts of grace for every time,
place and season as we strive within the
family to walk in Your ways and remain close
to one another and to you. We pray that
our homes may be schools of Faith, where
we come to know and love You.
Teach us the Sanctity of human love.
Show us the value of family life
and help us to respect all life.
May the young find in the family
strong support for their humanity
so that they may grow in truth and love.
May the elderly experience respect, support,
love and care within the family circle.
We give thanks for Grandparents and



we pray for them. We give them thanks for they
connect us with our heritage and our roots
through the mists of time. We give thanks
for their Christian memory which inspires and
enlightens us. We give thanks for the example
of their faith, for the witness of their lives,
for the constancy of thier love,
for the support of their prayers.

Bless all Grandparents and keep them in Your care.
Bless them with peace, health and healing. Reward
them for their Faith and fidelity, for their work
and goodness, for their love and thoughtfulness, for
their gifts and prayers. Give them a long and happy
life together. May old age come to them in
the company of family and friends. And when life
is over, unite them again, where parting will be
no more, in the Kingdom of Your love.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

✠ GOD REST HIS BEAUTIFUL SOUL ✠

Daily news



Irish Voters Reject Constitutional Overhaul of Motherhood and Family

Confounding pre-referendum polls, they
soundly defeated two measures that would
have deleted an existing mention of mothers
in the Irish Constitution, and widened the
definition of the family.

[Read More...](#)



Holy Week

AT HOME

Catholic family culture,
made simple.

CATHOLIC FAMILY CRATE

A lovely resource pack for families supporting their children's understanding of Holy Week - [CLICK HERE TO VIEW](#)



Holy Week & Easter at Knock Shrine Ireland

Holy Week includes both the Church's most solemn observances and joyous feasts. Unique, beautiful liturgies fill the period of time that begins on Palm Sunday and culminates with Easter Sunday.

Holy Week Ceremonies

Holy Week Ceremonies will be streamed online at www.knockshrine.ie/watch

Palm Sunday – 24 March

9.00am & 10.30am Parish Church
12.00noon & 3.00pm Basilica

Mass times from Monday 25 March to Wednesday 27 March

9am, 12 & 3pm Parish Church
7.30pm Parish Church (Rosary at 7pm)

Holy Thursday Ceremonies, 28 March

10.00am Morning Prayer – Parish Church
7:30pm Celebration of the Lord's Supper – Basilica

Good Friday Ceremonies – 29 March

10.00am Morning Prayer in the Parish Church
3.00pm Stations of the Cross with Veneration of the Cross
in the Basilica
7:30pm The Passion of Our Lord – Basilica

Holy Saturday Ceremonies – 30 March

10.00am Morning Prayer Parish Church
12.00noon Blessing of Bread in the Basilica
9.00pm Easter Vigil in the Basilica

Easter Sunday of the Lord's Resurrection – 31 March

9.00am & 10.30am Mass in the Parish Church
12.00noon & 3.00pm Mass in the Basilica

Confessions

10.30am – 4.00pm Daily
Closed Easter Sunday

KNOCK



**THE CATHOLIC NATIONAL SHRINE
AND BASILICA OF OUR LADY**
Walsingham - "England's Nazareth"

At the heart of our Christian Faith is the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
These saving events that we commemorate and participate in during the Sacred

Liturgy of Holy Week are the reason we call it 'the Great Week.' Mary is helping us to make this journey together as we walk with her Son and one another through His bitter agony to triumphant joy. This is a week for prayer-filled reverence and profound wonder at the love of God shown in Jesus our Lord. We walk not in great strides but in small trusting steps, passing through each moment with conviction that we will reach the resurrection with Christ and mindful that we will be forever transformed by the journey.

Easter Triduum 2024

AT THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF OUR LADY, WALSINGHAM



*Led by Rt Rev Michael
Campbell OSA,
Emeritus Bishop
of Lancaster*

HOLY THURSDAY - 28TH MARCH

No Mass at 12noon

11.00 - Rosary

19.00 - Mass of the Lord's Supper

GOOD FRIDAY - 29TH MARCH

10.00 - Office of Tenebrae

11.30 - Stations of the Cross

15.00 - Solemn Liturgy of the Passion

HOLY SATURDAY - 30TH MARCH

10.00 - Office of Tenebrae

12 noon - Rosary of the Seven Sorrows of Our Lady

20.00 - The Easter Vigil and First Mass of Easter

EASTER SUNDAY - 31ST MARCH

11.00 - Rosary

11.00 - 11.45 Confessions

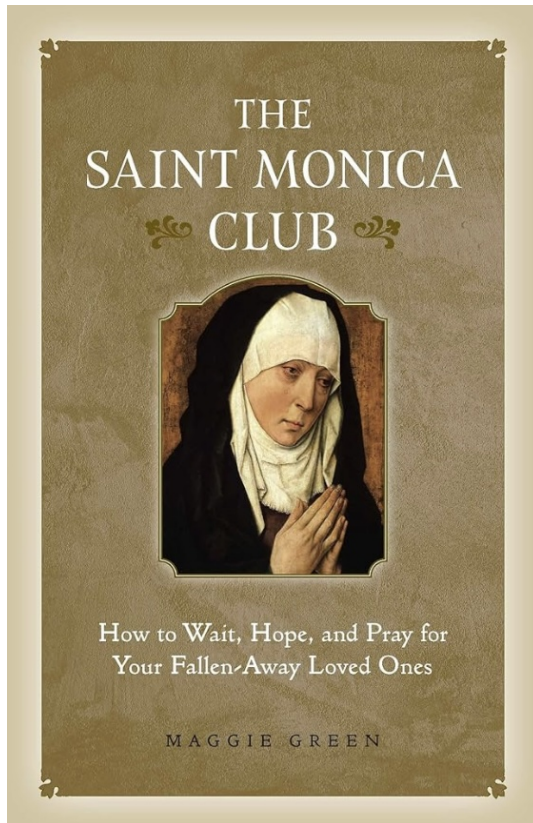
12.00 - Angelus and Holy Mass

14.00 - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

15.00 - Divine Mercy Novena and Chaplet

15.15 - Solemn Vespers & Benediction





Book review from our Ministry in Berwyn, Pennsylvania

The St. Monica Club by Maggie Green

The subtitle of our book says it all - How to Wait, Hope, and Pray for Your Fallen Away Loved Ones

We knew this book was perfect for our Ministry because we are in St. Monica's parish.

It is common knowledge that St. Monica prayed for her son, St. Augustine, for almost 2 decades to return to the faith. He sure did - in a big way. St. Monica's sacrifices, pain, and persistent prayers were finally answered.

Author Maggie Green shares compassionate guidance and hope for the members of the Club. She clearly understands the sadness experienced when family members reject their Catholic faith.

Her guidance helps the readers realize their prayers and suffering are important and worth the wait.

This book has many short chapters (3-4 pages each) that are easy to understand. They provide many suggestions to share the faith by actions and not merely words. Trusting in God's plan is the key as difficult as it can be. There are no quick fixes but daily surrender in prayer is truly worth it.

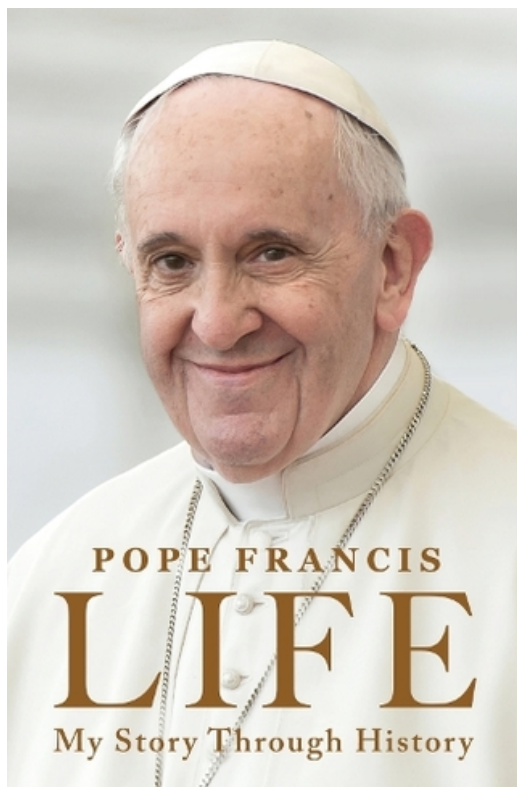
A few chapters include ways to call upon the Blessed Mother, go to Adoration and encourage hope and love of their 'prodigals'. No one wants to be a member of the St. Monica Club but there are many Club members. This book's guidance and strength help all members carry on and keep the faith blossoming in their hearts.

There is great comfort in knowing that St. Monica's prayers were answered. Author Maggie Green hopes this book will be a resource on how to pray and be 'steeped' in faith with joyful hope.

Marti Rogers

CGA Ministry, St. Monica Church, Berwyn, Pennsylvania, USA

[Link to purchase](#)



"Life, My Story Through History": a new book on life of Pope Francis

A new book about Pope Francis' life, authored by Fabio Marchese Ragona, will be published by HarperCollins in countries throughout Europe and the Americas in the spring of 2024, featuring personal events from his life and the great events that have marked the 20th century up to the present day.

[Read more](#)

We Need You

We urgently need Volunteers and members in all areas of the globe. Please reach out and tell a friend about our organisation; perhaps join a group in your Parish, or start your own Group. For further info contact the website www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org

WHO WE ARE

We are a worldwide group of people united by a belief in the importance of the vocation of Grandparents. We assist Grandparents in providing a crucial link in passing on the Faith.

Grandparents were never as important to the family, church and society as they are today. Grandparents treasure their Faith, they are concerned about the future, and want to ensure the Faith is passed on.

OUR MISSION

To help Grandparents pass on the Faith and to keep prayer at the heart of family life.



Subscribe



**Please help and support
us in our work, make an
offering or bequest**

[CLICK HERE](#)

Submit your
Prayer Request
on our website

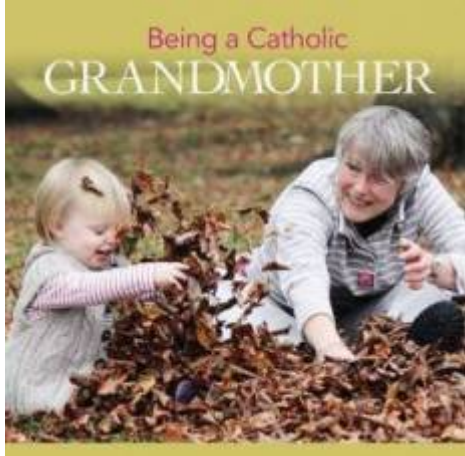


www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org

Visit our online shop for gift ideas

BACK IN STOCK

**Being a Catholic
Grandmother**



BUY NOW



Mezuzah

A Beautiful Doorpost
Commandment to Love



CGA Holy Family Picture

This is a wonderful picture of the Holy Family which features Saint Joachim, Saint Anne, Mary, Joseph and Jesus.



Pope Benedict XVI's Prayer for Grandparents

This is a beautiful memento version of the wonderful prayer written at our request by Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI.



CGA Badge

Our popular badges are available to order. These are typically ordered by our ministry leaders and as gifts for Grandparents.

♥ Please donate or make a bequest to help with CGA running costs - Thank you ♥



**There is a candle lighting for all of your intentions
at the Shrine of our Lady of Knock in Ireland**



Monthly Masses are offered for your intentions and prayers

May St. Joachim and St. Anne, parents of Mary, Grandparents of Jesus Bless us All

Visit our website



Catholic Grandparents Association

info@catholicgrandparentsassociation.com

Patron - Archbishop Francis Duffy - Tuam
Private Institute of The Faithful
Charity number 20074104
501(c)(3) charitable organization in the US

We hope you found this to be useful.
However, if you'd rather not receive future emails

[Unsubscribe](#)

Connecting Grandparents Worldwide

