



HELLO
december



To help Grandparents Pass on the faith and keep prayer at the heart of family life



December News

My Very Dear Grandparents and Friends,

We are delighted to welcome you to our December Newsletter supporting Grandparents in passing on the faith and keeping prayer at the heart of family life.

As we approach Christmas, we hold in our hearts both the joy of this season and the challenges it brings. For many

families, Christmas can be a difficult and complicated time. Small problems, like deciding what to buy for each grandchild or how to divide presents fairly, can weigh heavily. And then there are the deeper struggles-separation, divorce, the question of which grandparents get to see their grandchildren this year, or even where you should spend Christmas yourself.

Even going to Mass or church can be complicated when family members no longer practice. You might find yourself sitting alone on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, holding onto the faith on behalf of your loved ones. And yet, even in these challenges, there is hope.

Last Saturday, the reopening of Notre-

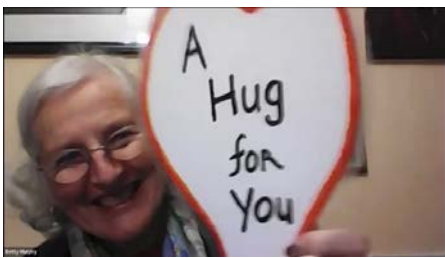


Dame in Paris became a rare and beautiful symbol of faith and unity. Leaders from across nationalities, cultures, and faiths gathered together- Prince William, Donald Trump, President Zelenskyy- all united in a moment of shared hope. In a world filled with unrest, chaos, and

uncertainty, this was a powerful sign of the unity we so deeply need.

Pope Francis, in his message for the occasion, reminded us that Notre-Dame's restoration is a prophetic sign of renewal. He spoke of how our hearts were heavy after the devastating fire that threatened to destroy such a masterpiece of Christian faith- a cathedral that had stood as a beacon for over a millennium. And yet, mourning gave way to joy. The outpouring of support from around the world not only demonstrated love for history but also renewed recognition of the cathedral's sacred role as a symbol of faith.

The restoration of Notre-Dame is very much like our faith. Sometimes, it feels like our faith is burning- challenged, strained, or even crumbling under the weight of the world's troubles. But just as the cathedral was rebuilt brick by brick, our faith can also be restored- through prayer, hope, and trust in God. As Pope Francis said, 'Sadness and mourning give way to joy, celebration, and praise.'



Let this Christmas remind us of that joy. Even in a world of rising and falling nations, chaos, and change, we are called to be beacons of faith for our families. Christmas is not about perfect gifts or perfect circumstances- it's about Christ's presence in our lives and the

renewal of hope.

And finally, dear friends, let us not forget that we, as grandparents, are ourselves symbols of faith and love. In our steadfastness, our prayers, and our care for our families, we reflect the enduring light of Christ. Just as Notre-Dame stands as a beacon of faith, so too do we, for our children and grandchildren.

This Christmas, may we carry that light forward, sharing hope, peace, and love with those around us. Let us continue to pray for renewal in our families, unity in the world, and strength in our own hearts.

Wishing you all a very blessed, happy and joy filled Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Please be kind enough to share this newsletter and to encourage new members to join.

With love and prayers ☐

Catherine Wiley ♣

Founder of The Catholic Grandparents



Association



ARCHDIOCESE
OF NEW YORK

Figures of Advent:

with Cardinal Dolan



Saints Joachim and Anne were the parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Although we celebrate their feast day in July, it's appropriate to think of them during this Advent season as the grandparents of Jesus.

[Watch now...](#)

**Pope's December prayer
intention: 'For pilgrims of
hope'**



December

Pope's December prayer intention: 'For pilgrims of hope'

Pope Francis releases his prayer intention for the month of December, and invites Christians to pray that each of us may become pilgrims of hope as a result of the 2025 Jubilee.

[Click here to watch](#)

□ Around the World in 7 Advent Traditions □

By Refine Staff Published on December 1, 2024

Everyone has special Christmas traditions: cookies left for Santa, presents from St. Nick, Christmas carols before bed, and more!

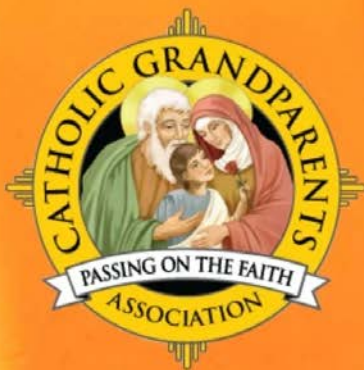
While Advent and Christmas traditions vary from family to family, they differ even more from country to country! Read on to discover different Advent traditions from around the world, and how you can join in this time of anticipation.



Harness The Power Of Words In Your Life

[Read more...](#)

Peace Be With You



□ Spread Peace this Advent with our Peace Card □

Make the first move!

send a card to anyone you may have hurt or offended.

We all know that peace begins with us, with our family, our community, our parish! Sadly in many families a peaceful and loving environment does not exist. There is always a way back, there is always hope.

This Advent and Christmas Season why not use our Peace Card to encourage you to speak peace, teach peace and spread peace this Advent!

Our Peace Card is a simple A4 pdf that can be downloaded and shared in an email or online through social media. We are asking you to use the Peace Card to share a peace greeting into the world; to begin a conversation with someone you have not spoken to in your family or a friend that you have forgotten over the years. Peace begins with you!

You can download the card below, it is sized at A4 so you can print and fold and write a message inside, or use it as you see fit.

It comes with a very simple and yet profound message: Peace Be With You!

Will you join us and share peace into our troubled world this Advent and Christmas?

[Click here to download our peace card](#)



May this Christmas bring
happiness into our homes,
peace within our lives and
Jesus into our hearts.

Help us remember this season is
about the birth of your Son and
His love for us.

We ask for you to humble our hearts and
bless us this Christmas.



*Ireland's International
Eucharistic and Marian
Shrine*



Saturday, December 21st 2024 at 8.30pm (photo credit Knock Shrine)

'The Longest Night' - A Gathering Of Comfort & Hope

This is a service for those who feel isolated from the general feelings of joy and happiness typically associated with this time of year and for those who have suffered a personal loss - the death of a loved one, separation, illness, job loss or loneliness. December 21st is the longest night of the year, marking the Winter solstice.

This service seeks to bring comfort by reminding us that we are not alone and that there is always hope in Christ.

It takes place in the **Apparition Chapel on the 21st of December at 8:30pm**. All are welcome.

For those of you who are unable to join us in person, the service will be streamed live on our [website](#).

Read more



AN EVENING OF CAROLS AND FESTIVE FAVOURITES

KNOCK

Carols by Candlelight at Knock Basilica
Sunday 22 December, 2024 at 8pm

*Featuring Schola Cantorum Basilicae, Knock Shrine and Knock Youth Choir
Musical accompaniment by ConTempo String Quartet and Pianist Mark Keane*



The perfect start to the Christmas Season

This event is free of charge and is also live-streamed at www.knockshrine.ie/watch-live

Sunday, December 22nd 2024 at 8pm (photo credit Knock Shrine)

'Carols By Candlelight'

Join us for an evening of Christmas carols and festive favourites in the candlelit surrounding of Knock Basilica on Sunday, December 22nd at 8pm.

Schola Cantorum Basilicae will be joined by Knock Youth Choir. Musical accompaniment will be by ConTempo String Quartet and organist Mark Keane, with guest musicians.

This event is free of charge and will also be streamed live on our [website](#)

Read more

☐ Ministry News ☐



First Holy Hour at the Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center in Sierra Madre, CA.

On December 11th, we had 30 people attend and many first time participants in our CGA activity. At our next event on January 26, 2025, we will be inviting the grandchildren to join their grandparents for the outdoor Stations of the Cross.

We have scheduled our second annual daytime CGA retreat for March 19, 2025 (Feast day of St. Joseph).

Daniel Lopez
CGA San Gabriel Valley here in the Los Angeles

☐ Ministry Events ☕

CGA Our Lady of Mount Carmel



“Fill My Cup”

Join us for OLMC’s second *Celebration for Wise Grandmothers* - the Celtic tradition of Women’s Christmas or Little Christmas on the feast of the Epiphany.

Bring your favorite teacup and celebrate the blessings of the past year & the blessing of friendship in the new year ~ a special gathering designed for women!

Monday, January 6

OLMC upper deck @ 9:30 am





The Colours of Christmas ☐

We would like to thank everyone who attended our Faith Café on Tuesday 10th December it was truly wonderful to see everyone with our guest speaker **Dr. Keith Chappell** with the theme '**The Colours of Christmas - getting through the high and lows of a time of year that brings many joys and challenges to family life!**'

We look forward to our next session on Tuesday 14th January.

If you would like to watch our December Faith Café subscribe to our newsletter

Inspiring Faith Café Quotes

Extract from Dr. Keith Chappell

"But the first thing we do is we meet them. We meet them, we walk with them. We show them love. We accompany them. And share joy with them, I think. And then once people see a joyous faith, I think it helps to share that faith. Because a joyous faith is a living faith. A dour faith is not one that attracts. And we have this opportunity at Christmas, like no other time, to do that. So, I'll just say thank you. Thank you."

Dr. Keith Chappell

"So here, I want to share a prayer from our Carmelite sisters locally, Journey to Bethlehem.
So, as we prepare to celebrate the great solemnity of the Nativity of

our Lord, let us reflect on the journey of Mary and Joseph as they carried Jesus hidden within Mary's womb. In our lives, we are also called to be Eucharistic pilgrims, carrying the presence of Christ within us. As we contemplate the mystery of God made man, we recognize the transformative power of this gift. The Eucharist invites each of us into a deeper relationship with Jesus who desires to heal our heart and renew our spirit. Let us journey together with Mary and Joseph during these days of Advent, days of hope and joy, preparing the way for Christ who comes as the light of the world. Amen."

Daniel Lopez

"As Pope Francis said, sadness and mourning gave way to joy, celebration and praise. So let this Christmas remind us of that joy, even in a world of rising and falling nations. We are called to be beacons of faith for our families. Christmas is not about perfect gifts or perfect circumstances. It's about Christ's presence in our own lives and a renewal of hope. And finally, dear friends, let us not forget that we, as grandparents, are ourselves symbols, in ourselves, of that faith and love. In our steadfastness, our prayers and our care for our families, we remain faithful to Christ. We reflect the enduring light of Christ. Just as Notre Dame stands as a beacon of faith, so too do we for our children and for our grandchildren."

Catherine Wiley

Our next Faith Café



Save the Date
CARDINAL
WILFRED NAPIER

Register for our Next Faith Café

[Click here](#)



PRAYING FOR YOUR GRANDCHILDREN

5 Things to Do Before Prayers for My Grandchildren

As a grandparent, one of the joys of life is getting to know your grandchildren. And as they grow older, you may find yourself wanting to pray for them more often. But before you start praying for your grandchildren, there are a few things you should do first. Here are 5 things to do before prayers for my grandchildren:

[Click here to read](#)

CHRISTMAS DONATION

WE NEED YOUR HELP THIS CHRISTMAS

THE BEST GIFT FOR YOUR GRANDCHILDREN
THIS CHRISTMAS

PASS ON THE FAITH

PLEASE SEND A GIFT TO



DONATE NOW

Click to contribute





PRAYER FOR GRANDPARENTS

Lord Jesus,
you were born of the Virgin Mary,
the daughter of Saints Joachim and Anne.
Look with love on grandparents the world over.
Protect them! They are a source of enrichment
for families, for the Church and for all of society.
Support them! As they grow older,
may they continue to be for their families
strong pillars of Gospel faith,
guardians of noble domestic ideals,
living treasuries of sound religious traditions.
Make them teachers of wisdom and courage,
that they may pass on to future generations the fruits
of their mature human and spiritual experience.

Lord Jesus,
help families and society
to value the presence and role of grandparents.
May they never be ignored or excluded,
but always encounter respect and love.
Help them to live serenely and to feel welcomed
in all the years of life which you give them.
Mary, Mother of all the living,
keep grandparents constantly in your care,
accompany them on their earthly pilgrimage,
and by your prayers, grant that all families
may one day be reunited in our heavenly homeland,
where you await all humanity
for the great embrace of life without end. Amen!



Benedictus II in

*Universal Prayer for Grandparents
composed by Pope Benedict XVI
for The Catholic Grandparents Association
2008*

WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU

SEND YOUR IDEAS



STORIES

GRANDCHILD'S PRAYER



IDEAS

YOUR CGA NEWS



TOPICS YOU WOULD
LIKE TO HEAR

EMAIL US AT:

COMMUNICATIONS@CATHOLICGRANDPARENTSASSOCIATION.ORG

[CLICK HERE](#)

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 ministry in your Parish, or start your own Ministry. 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.



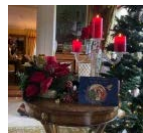
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Visit our online shop for gift ideas



CGA Christmas Decoration

A Beautiful Christmas Decoration
St. Joachim, St. Anne, Jesus – Bless All Grandparents



CGA Christmas Card – Pack of 6

Wishing You a Happy and Holy Christmas



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.



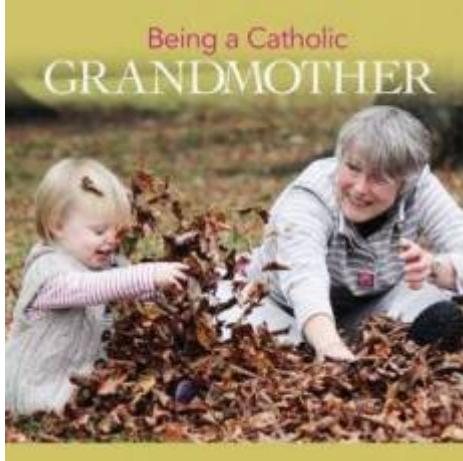
CGA Brooch

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

BACK IN STOCK

Being a Catholic Grandmother

BUY NOW



♥ 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



God Bless all children and grandchildren as they return to School and College, protect them, keep them safe and well.



Catholic Grandparents Association

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



info@catholicgrandparentsassociation..com

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