

## WEALTH OF WISDOM

The enormous value of what older people can offer to their churches cannot be underestimated. A new report speaks of the power of Purposeful Ageing; finding ways to enjoy a happy, healthy old age by volunteering, being more creative, trying new opportunities. In a church context, this translates as interested, engaged people with time and skills to offer; whether that's by teaching younger people, supporting new mothers, or simply listening to those who are struggling, with the benefit of experience to offer them. Those relationships can become two-way streets; the older person feels valuable, appreciated, and respected, and others in the church receive the benefits of their time and knowledge.

As the population grows ever older, it's increasingly important for Catholic churches to review how they look after these members of their church families. There are many practical ways to serve and love older people, from a mundane car-pool rota to the friendly offer of a Sunday lunch after the service. In return, older members can offer so much time, enthusiasm, and experience to people of all ages within the church. All of this reflects outwards to the wider community, and upwards to God.

*"Thanks to the rich treasury of experiences they have acquired through the years, the elderly can and must be sources of wisdom and witnesses of hope and love."*

- Pope St. John Paul II

### CATHOLIC GRANDPARENTS ASSOCIATION

The Catholic Grandparents Association is a global organization of the faithful. An integral part of the Catholic Grandparents Association is establishing and working with Grandparents ministries at diocesan and parish level. These act as prayer and support groups for Grandparents. Grandparents have a unique vocation that must be fostered and cherished in the spirit of St. Joachim and St. Anne, the Grandparents of Jesus and parents of Mary.



The Catholic Grandparents Association has a website where they offer resources for grandparents - this includes access to podcasts and monthly newsletters. If you would like to learn more, or would like to sign up to receive their newsletters, visit their website: [www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org](http://www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org).

### SPECIAL MASS

In celebration of the second World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, we will have a special Mass on Sunday, July 24th at 9:00am followed by a blessing of our parish grandparents and seniors. The Mass will also be live-streamed on our website if you are unable to join us in person: [www.stpeterspeterborough.ca](http://www.stpeterspeterborough.ca)

St. Peter -In- Chains, Peterborough, July 2022

## Cathedral Connections



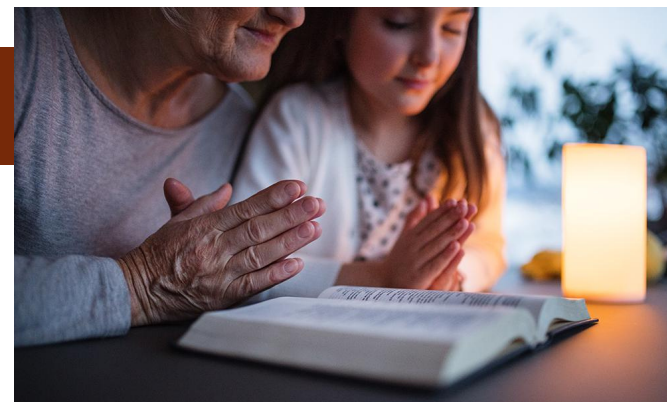
The Vatican announced that Pope Francis has chosen a theme for the second World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, being celebrated on **July 24th**, that will be an opportunity to reflect on verse 15 from **Psalms 92**: "In old age they will still bear fruit."

The theme "intends to emphasize how grandparents and the elderly are a value and a gift both for society and for ecclesial communities," a press release said.

"The theme is also an invitation to reconsider and value grandparents and the elderly who are too often kept on the margins of families, civil and ecclesial communities," it continued. "Their experience of life and faith can contribute, in fact, to building societies that are aware of their roots and capable of dreaming of a future based on greater solidarity."

Pope Francis established the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly in 2021. The day takes place annually on the fourth Sunday of July, on or close to the July 26 Feast of Sts. Anne and Joachim, the grandparents of Jesus. Pope Francis, who is 85 years old, has been an advocate for the dignity of the aging, and has often emphasized the important role of grandparents in passing on the Catholic faith.

"Our grandparents, who nourished our own lives, now hunger for our attention and our love; they long for our closeness. Let us lift up our eyes and see them, even as Jesus sees us," Pope Francis stated.





NOVENA TO STS. ANNE & JOACHIM

Pray this prayer for 9 consecutive days.

Saints Joachim and Ann, grandparents of Jesus and parents of Mary, we seek your intercession. We beg you to direct all our actions to the greater glory of God and the salvation of souls. Strengthen us when we are tempted, console us during our trials, help us when we are in need, be with us in life and in death.

O Divine Savior, we thank You for having chosen saint Joachim and Ann to be the parents of our Blessed Mother Mary and so to be your beloved grandparents. We place ourselves under their patronage this day. We recommend to them our families, our children, and our grandchildren. Keep them from all spiritual and physical harm. Grant that they may ever grow in greater love of God and others.

Saints Joachim and Ann, we have many great needs. We beg you to intercede for us before the throne of your Divine Grandson. All of us here have our special intentions, our own special needs, and we pray that through your intercession our prayers may be granted.

Amen.

-Mention your intention(s) here...-



Joachim and Anne were the parents of Jesus’ mother, Mary. We don’t know many details about their lives because they are never mentioned in the New Testament. Everything we know about them comes down through tradition.

We believe that they were respected members of the Jewish community and that they wanted to become parents so much that Joachim went into the desert to fast and pray that God would hear their prayer. It is said that an angel told them that they would soon have a daughter who would become famous throughout the world.

Months later, Mary, our Blessed Mother, was born. When Mary was three years old, Anne and Joachim took her to the temple in Jerusalem to consecrate her for special service to the Lord. We call this celebration the “Presentation of the Virgin Mary.”

We honor Mary’s parents, Joachim and Anne, as saints. We celebrate their joint feast day on July 26. Their love for one another and for Mary is an example to us of how God calls us to live. They also remind us to honor our own grandparents and to thank them for the blessings they have passed down to us in love.

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| Baking  | Games     | Memories  | Smile    |
| Candy   | Gardening | Movies    | Songs    |
| Close   | Grandma   | Nap       | Special  |
| Cookie  | Grandpa   | Play      | Together |
| Cooking | Happy     | Poems     | Toy      |
| Family  | Holiday   | Presents  | Treat    |
| Friends | Hug       | Relative  | Trip     |
| Fun     | Love      | Sleepover | Very     |



FOUR REASONS GRANDCHILDREN NEED THEIR GRANDPARENTS

- 1) **Grandparents are an extra layer of protection.** Every family needs help sometimes, and grandparents can be the ones who make sure that children get the care and attention they need at stressful times.
- 2) **Grandparents connect children to their heritage.** Grandparents should also tell stories about their own lives. Whether they are informative, humorous or tragic, such stories can make grandparents more real to their grandchildren.
- 3) **Grandparents can be teachers.** Many skills go untaught simply because of a lack of leisure time in which to teach them. Grandparents are logical choices to pass on some of those skills.
- 4) **Grandparents provide unconditional love.** A close relationship with grandparents helps grandchildren grow in confidence. It makes them feel worthy. It gives them security.