

At Home Celebration of Grandparents Day:

We know that during this terrible time of COVID families are apart in order to keep each other safe. How sad the bitter sweet reality of preservation is. But every family member aches to see, touch, speak and laugh with each other.

We would like to urge you to make some form of connection with your loved ones, via FaceTime, WhatsApp call or any form of online meeting place. Arrange for the call to be made together so that you can celebrate this at home para-liturgy with as many loved ones as you can.

If this is not possible, then the parents can arrange for letters to be written to and from the Grandparents and Grandchildren, with this para-liturgy attached.

What you need:

- Bible
- Daily Missal
- Candle
- Green Cloth
- Crucifix
- Photos of Grandparents, children and grandchildren
- Image of St's Anne and Joachim
- Paper, Pens and Box or Jar

1. SET THE SPACE

Find a space in your home that is accessible for all to see.

Create an Altar with the Green Cloth, Bible, lit Candles, Crucifix Images and Photos. The Altar will be an essential element in having a beautiful and Joyous para-liturgy.

- Light the Candle have the Bible open to the Gospel for St's Anne and Joachim

2. OPENING PRAYER

Look with love on grandparents the world over.

Protect them!

They are a source of enrichment
for families and for all of society.

Support them!

As they grow older,
may they continue to be for their families
strong pillars of Gospel faith,
guardian 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.

Help families and society
to value the presence and roles 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.
Keep them 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.

Together:

God of love,
We thank you for our wonderful grandparents.
They bring such joy and happiness into our lives.
Thank you for all the special times that we have with them.
Please watch over them, protect them and care for them now.
May they know your goodness and love always

3. INTENTION SETTING

Place a box or glass jar with some paper and a pen on your Altar; each person in the family can take turns to share two or more moments of Joy that they experience through their grandparents and grandchildren write or draw these down and place them in the box or jar on the Altar. If you are participating on an online platform, send a text message that can be written down on a piece of paper and placed in the box or jar. It is even special to do this for grandparents and grand children who have entered into Eternal Life.

Set an intention to move into deeper into a relationship with your grandparents and grandchildren. During this time share what and how you would like to do for and with each other. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you use the words of the opening prayer to help navigate where he wants to take the family.

5. DAILY READINGS: Turn to the Mass Reading for St's Anne and Joachim, Grandparents of Jesus

Consider the words of Jesus in the gospel.

For the Grandparents: What can you acknowledge in your grandchild(ren) that is Blessed and Holy? What Gifts of the Holy Spirit do you recognise in them? Also recognise this for those who have entered into Eternal Life.

For the Grandchildren: What can you acknowledge in your grandparents as Blessed and Holy? What Gifts of the Holy Spirit do you recognise in them? Also recognise this for those who have entered into Eternal Life.

For those who have never met their Grandparents or Grandchildren; we ask that the parents share moments of what they experienced with their parents and children. This will not be easy, but it will allow your family to feel the importance of those family member that they have not met, and will one day be reunited with them.

6. CLOSING PRAYER

We will use the messages placed into the Jar at this time as the closing prayer. Members of the family can read a message and offer it up as a prayer.

Together:

Dear God, please bless my grandparents.
Thank you for the life they gave my parents
and for the life, they give to me.

For the ways they helped me and made me strong, I give thanks.
For the ways, they love me no matter what, I rejoice.
For the ways, they have paved the road
that leads me here, I am grateful.

Let them grow in wisdom and joy in life.
Let them find peace and rest from their work.
Let them be healed of every sickness and pain.
And let them see with their own eyes your glory
and the love of their children and grandchildren.

Bless them always until they come to rest in you.

Amen

Saints Anne and Joachim, Pray for us

Prayers taken and adapted from Jesuitresource.org