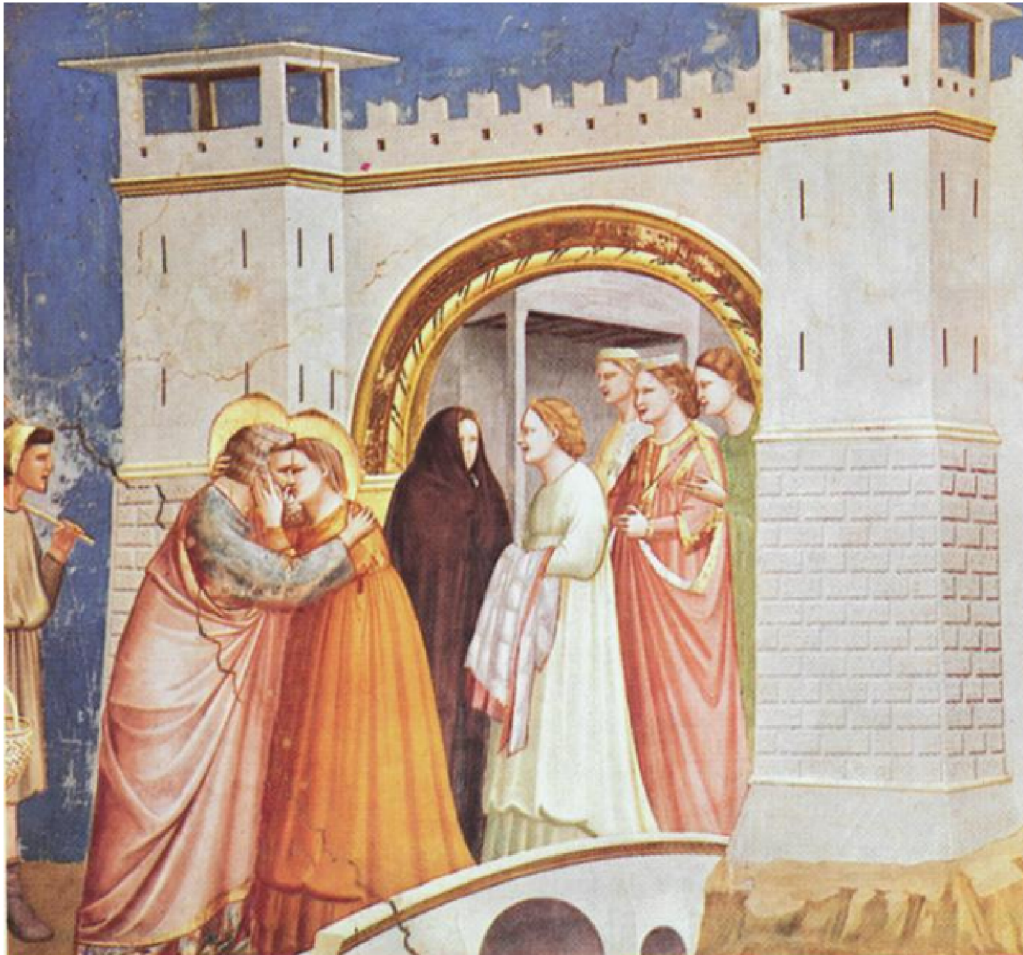

Sts. Joachim and Anne

Feast Day: July 26



PATRON SAINTS OF GRANDPARENTS

Catholic Social Teaching principles:

- Life and Dignity of the Human Person
- Call to Family, Community and Participation

On July 26, the Catholic Church commemorates the parents of the Virgin Mary, Saints Joachim and Anne.

According to Church tradition (the Protoevangelium of James, which was probably put into its final written form in the early second century), Mary's father Joachim was a wealthy member of one of the Twelve Tribes of Israel.

Joachim was deeply grieved, along with his wife Anne, by their childlessness. "He called to mind Abraham," the early Christian writing says, "that in the last day God gave him a son Isaac."

Joachim and Anne began to devote themselves to rigorous prayer and fasting, in isolation from one another and from society. They regarded their inability to conceive a child as a surpassing misfortune, and a sign of shame among the tribes of Israel.

As it turned out, however, the couple were to be blessed even more abundantly than Abraham and Sarah. An angel revealed this to Anne when he appeared to her and prophesied that all generations would honor their future child: "The Lord has heard your prayer, and you shall conceive, and shall bring forth; and your seed shall be spoken of in all the world." *-Information provided by Catholic News Agency*

Pope Francis has established throughout the Church the celebration of the World Day for Grandparents and Elderly on the fourth Sunday of July, near the liturgical memorial of Saints Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus

Pray

Grandparents are cherished members of our family. They bring gifts of wisdom, experience, and love and share with us their life of faith. We thank God for their example and ask that he bless them with happiness and good health. You may pray this prayer of blessing over your grandparents.

"Lord God almighty, bless our grandparents with long life, happiness, and health. May they remain constant in your love and be living signs of your presence to their children and grandchildren. We ask this through Christ our Lord. R/. Amen"



Learn

From FORMED: Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp sit down with the painting "Joachim and Anne Meeting at the Golden Gate" by Giotto di Bondone (1305) (pictured on front) to discuss the theological meaning and how it can speak to us today.



Act:

On June 24, the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, make a visit to grandparents and the lonely elderly in your community and deliver the Holy Father's message to them. The visit, a tangible sign of the outgoing Church, is a way to reaffirm that the elderly, even the loneliest, are at the center of our communities. To spread the message of the day, pictures of the visits can be posted on social media with the hashtag #ElderlyAndGrandparents.

