



Celebrating the Jubilee Locally

Jubilee of Families, Children, Grandparents and the Elderly *(May 30 – June 1, 2025)*

The Jubilee Year is a sacred time in the Church, inviting the faithful to experience God's mercy through pilgrimages, Mass celebrations, and acts of reconciliation. The 2025 Jubilee Year follows the theme "Pilgrims of Hope", encouraging Catholics to embrace and share God's mercy through service, peace, and compassion.

The Jubilee of Families, Children, Grandparents, and the Elderly will take place from Friday, May 30th to June 1st. However, this moment of grace extends beyond these dates; it is an invitation to recognize, celebrate, and uplift families, children, grandparents and the elderly throughout the Jubilee Year and beyond.

Here in the Archdiocese of Winnipeg, we warmly invite all the faithful to participate in this local celebration by utilizing the resources provided. These materials are designed to support and inspire parishes, schools, apostolates, movements, organizations, and families as they plan their celebrations of the Jubilee of Families, Children, Grandparents, and the Elderly. This guide offers practical ideas and inspiration, but it is only a starting point. We hope it will spark creativity and lead to the development of ongoing and locally rooted initiatives—not only during this Jubilee Year but well into the future.

May this resource help foster communities of belonging, joy, and faith-filled celebration, where the unique gifts of families, children, grandparents, and the elderly are honoured and uplifted throughout the life of our Church.

PRAYERS

Suggested Prayers of the Faithful:

- For all families, that they may be schools of love, forgiveness, and faith, we pray to the Lord.
- For grandparents and the elderly, who serve as wise mentors and keepers of memory, we pray to the Lord.
- For children, that they may grow in joy, faith, and hope, we pray to the Lord.
- For parishes, that they may become places where all generations are welcomed and valued, we pray to the Lord.

Special Prayers

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the gift of family. Bless all children with wonder and love; strengthen grandparents and the elderly with joy and peace; and guide all families to be faithful reflections of Your mercy. May our homes be places of welcome, prayer, and service, and may each generation walk together as pilgrims of hope.
Amen.

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.

Saints' Intercession

St. Joseph and the Blessed Virgin Mary (Multiple feast days)

The earthly parents of Jesus, who together form the Holy Family and exemplify a model of family life centered on faith, love, and obedience to God's will. St. Joseph is honored for his humility and obedience as a protector and provider, while Mary, Mother of God, is revered for her perfect discipleship and love through her acceptance of God's will.

St. Joachim and St. Anne (Feast Day July 26)

Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary and grandparents of Jesus. After years of keeping a steadfast faith and trust in God amidst the trial of infertility, St. Joachim and St. Anne received an angelic prophecy of a birth of a child, Mary, Mother of God. They are the patron saints of grandparents and infertile couples.

St. Zechariah and St. Elizabeth (Feast day November 5)

Parents of St. John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ. A devout elderly couple who faced infertility for many decades before God intervened, their story illustrates themes of hope, patience, and prayer.

St. Aquila and St. Priscilla (Feast day July 8)

A married couple and early Christian missionaries mentioned by Paul as “co-workers in Christ Jesus” (Romans 16:3). They are recognized for their hospitality, commitment to the Church, and willingness to risk their lives for the sake of the Gospel.

St. Louis and St. Zélie Martin (Feast day July 12)

Decided to marry after both had been denied entry into religious life. They lived as celibates for almost a year before choosing to have and raise children for the glory of God. Five of their children entered religious life, including St. Therese of Lisieux.

St. Gianna Baretta-Molla (Feast day April 28)

A mother, wife, and pediatrician who refused an abortion and hysterectomy to preserve the life of her child. Her willingness to sacrifice her own life imitates that of Jesus and his sacrifice on Calvary.

ACTION

Host a “Family Generations” Mass

- Invite families to attend Mass together.
- Have children, parents, and grandparents take on roles in the liturgy (e.g., greeting, readings, offertory).
- Offer a special blessing for grandparents and the elderly during Mass.

Organize a Storytelling or Memory-Sharing Event

- Invite elders in the parish to share stories of faith and family from their lives.
- Have children interview grandparents or older parishioners and present what they learned.
- Create a "wall of memory" with photos, quotes, or family trees displayed at church.

Host a Parish Picnic or Intergenerational Gathering

- Plan a social event for all ages: food, games, crafts, and music.
- Include an area where elders can share traditional skills (e.g., prayers, crafts, baking) with children.

Create a “Grandparent Day” or Elder Visitation

- Encourage Catechism classes to write cards to residents in seniors’ homes.
- Organize volunteers in the parish to help elderly parishioners with errands or home visits.

“Adopt a Family” Support Program

- Pair younger families with elderly couples or individuals for companionship.
- Offer practical support such as shared meals, rides to Mass, or shared prayer times.

Have a Family Pilgrimage

- Visit one or more of the designated Jubilee Churches and Shrines in the Archdiocese of Winnipeg, Archdiocese of Saint Boniface and the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Winnipeg. (Use the Jubilee Pilgrim guide as a resource)

RESOURCES

Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love) – Apostolic Exhortation on family life by Pope Francis.

https://www.vatican.va/content/dam/francesco/pdf/apost_exhortations/documents/pa-pa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20160319_amoris-laetitia_en.pdf

World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly (celebrated each July):

www.vatican.va

Catholic Grandparents Association: www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org

Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops: Resources on family and aging ministries.

<https://www.cccb.ca/evangelization-catechesis-catholic-education/the-ordinary-jubilee-of-the-year-2025/>