



THE DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
**Office of Human Life,
Family and Bioethics**



Feast Day of St Joachim and St Anne July 26th

The married couple traditionally honored as the parents of Mary, which makes them the grandparents of Jesus.

Grandparents and the Incarnation

How wonderful that Jesus has grandparents! St. Joachim and St. Anne remind us of the mystery of the Incarnation: God truly became man and entered into a human family that included not only his mother Mary and father Joseph but their parents, and their parents, and their parents, all the way back to Adam (and Eve) at the dawn of creation, according to St. Luke's chronology (Luke 3:23-38). Like all of us, Jesus was born into a web of relationships, the "cradle of life and love" that is the family (John Paul II, *Christifideles Laici*, no. 40).

A Model for Marriage

Saints Joachim and Anne are the father and mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Mary is the fruit of their marriage. By a singular grace of God in view of the merits of Jesus, she was preserved from all stain of Original Sin from the moment of her conception. Thus it is in the context of married life and conjugal love that Mary is prepared to receive the Divine Logos, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. Jesus is the Logos, the "Reason" at the heart of all reason and truth, including the truth of marriage. The marriage between Joachim and Anne is a significant witness to why marriage is "unique for a reason."

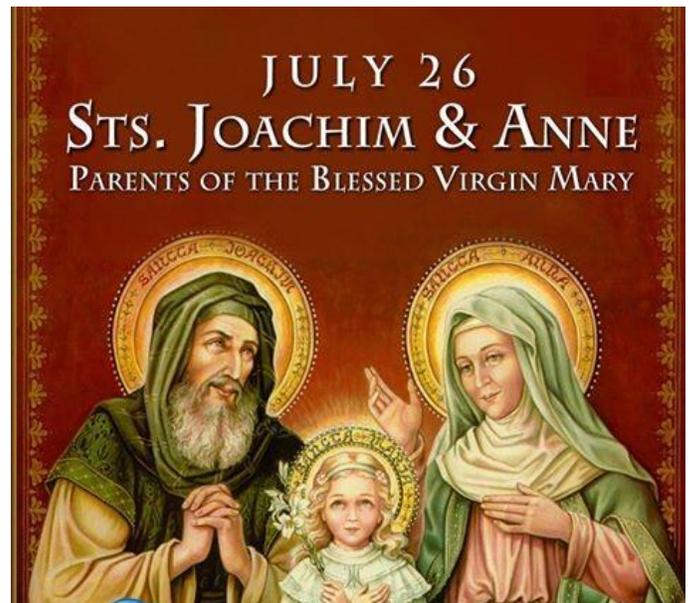
St. Joachim and St. Anne are the patron saints of grandparents and infertile couples.

St. Joachim and St. Anne, pray for us!

Novena to St Joachim and St Anne: <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/marriage-and-family/natural-family-planning/upload/nfp-sts-anne-joachim-novena.pdf>

Good parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary, grandparents of our Savior, Jesus Christ,

When life seems barren,
help us to trust in God's mercy.
When we are confused,
help us to find the way to God.



When we are lost in the desert,
lead us to those whom God has called us to love.
When our marriage seems lifeless,
show us the eternal youth of the Lord.
When we are selfish,
teach us to cling only to that which lasts.

When we are afraid,
help us to trust in God.
When we are ashamed,
remind us that we are God's children.
When we sin,
lead us to do God's will.
You who know God's will for husband and wife,
help us to live chastely.
You who know God's will for the family,
keep all families close to you.

You who suffered without children,
intercede for all infertile couples.
You who trusted in God's will,
help us to respect God's gift of fertility.
You who gave birth to the Blessed Mother,
inspire couples to be co-creators with God.
You who taught the Mother of God,
teach us to nurture children in holy instruction.
You whose hearts trusted in God,
hear our prayers for . . . (mention your requests here)

Pray with us for the ministry of Catholic family life.
Pray with us for the ministry of Natural Family Planning.
Pray with us for all who give their time,
talent and treasure to this good work.

Hail Mary. . . Our Father. . . Glory to the Father. . .

God of our fathers,
you gave Saints Anne and Joachim
the privilege of being the parents of Mary,
the mother of your Incarnate Son.
May their prayers help us to attain
the salvation you have promised to your people.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.