

## Independence Day July 4th



*Take time on July 4th before your celebration begins, to talk about the many blessings and freedoms we enjoy in our country. About 25 years ago my husband, myself and three of our daughters spent July 4<sup>th</sup> in Russia with the girls high school chorus. I will never forget gathering in the corner of the hotel lobby that morning with 60 teens. The director of the chorus invited each of us to spend a few moments in silence to thank God for our nation and then led us all in humming together “America.” There was not a dry eye. I think everyone on that trip will always remember that day. Take time together to pray for our country, for our leaders, , for those who bravely sacrificed for our freedom and pray that each of us will work toward the common good of our nation.*

**Let us pray:** Gracious God we thank you for our country, for our fellow Americans, and for all the gifts of our land. We thank you for the freedoms we enjoy and for all the men and women who have sacrificed for those freedoms. Bless and guide our president and all leaders of our nation. Send your Spirit upon us to help us be wise and courageous citizens who generously contribute our gifts for the common good of our nation. Amen.