

Care for Creation Lenten Calendar

The St. Patrick's Creation Care Team invites you to use this calendar during Lent to reflect on the gifts of creation and to consider actions you might take to promote environmental stewardship as a Lenten practice. If you are interested in joining the St. Pat's Creation Care Ministry, email Creation.Care@stpatrikbridge.org.

Week	Themes	Reflection	Actions
<p>Week 1 Feb. 21-27</p> <p>Readings: Gn 9: 8-15 Pt: 3: 18-22 Mk 1:12-15</p>	<p>Covenant with Every Living Being</p>	<p>As the waters of the Great Flood recede, God establishes a covenant with Noah to start creation anew. God makes the promise not only with Noah's family but with "everything alive around you—birds, farm animals, wild animals—that came out of the ship." Thousands of generations later, it is up to us to follow through on this covenant, for the sake of ourselves and all creation. The ecosystems of our waterways, animals, and plants know how to regenerate themselves. Our covenant with God necessitates that we get out of the way and allow nature to take its course.</p>	<p>Connect with an organization working to protect Earth's land, air, and water:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Green City/Blue Lake: https://www.gcbl.org/ 2. Alliance for the Great Lakes https://greatlakes.org/ 3. The Hummingbird Project: http://www.hummingbirdproject.org/
<p>Week 2 Feb. 28-Mar. 6</p> <p>Readings: Gen. 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18 Rom. 8: 31b-34 Mk. 9:2-10</p>	<p>Sacrifice & Offerings</p>	<p>As humans, we are living in an unparalleled time where much is asked of us to care for God's creation. In this week's readings, Abraham heard the call to sacrifice and offer his own son to God. We can sacrifice our own overconsumption, offer our attention to environmental justice issues, and appeal to those in power to care for creation. We can embrace the discomfort of sacrifice, and offer our resources mindfully and responsibly. What have you been challenged to sacrifice/offer in our shared mission to care for God's creation? How can you embrace the discomfort of these challenges?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read the Earth Charter and reflect on how it calls you to sacrifice/offer: earthcharter.org/read-the-earth-charter/ 2. Refrain from eating meat this week, when possible. Recipes at: theminimalistvegan.com 3. Learn about an environmental justice issue in your community by visiting the Ohio Environmental Council: theoec.org 4. Express appreciation for a community leader who works to care for God's creation. Learn more at: www.sustainablecleveland.org
<p>Week 3 March 7- 13</p> <p>Readings: Ex 20:1-17 1 Cor. 1:22-25 John 2:13-25</p>	<p>Holiness and Respect</p>	<p>Teilhard de Chardin said the world is in truth a holy place. God wants us to use this holy place appropriately. God gives us the Ten Commandments to guide us in doing this. Jesus saw the temple being used inappropriately and was angry. Do we use the resources God gave us in the way God wants us to? What about the way we use God's holy world might anger Christ today?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read the encyclical <i>Laudato Si</i> and/or <i>Fratelli Tutti</i>. 2. Let your yard or some spot of earth be pleasing to God or give glory to God. 3. Write a letter to a company that doesn't seem to use resources appropriately. 4. Do not waste any food.

<p>Week 4 March 14-20</p> <p>Readings: 1 Sm. 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a Eph. 5:8-14 John 9:1-41</p>	<p>Repent to Renew God's Sabbath Rest for Creation</p>	<p>God's temple was a model of our Creation that was given to Israel as the place to remember, celebrate, and renew the covenant of peace that God began at the beginning. But like Israel's sins against its temple, our actions have polluted and corrupted our earth's creative and sustaining powers. Like the temple then, Pope Francis is warning us that our natural world is now burning. As a prophet he proclaims God's direction for us to restore and protect our earth that is the dwelling place of God. Our psalm this week is a lament describing how exiled Israel wept when it remembered that their abuses of God's covenant with the people and the land had damaged and alienated them from their natural home. But Jesus is calling us and empowering us to choose God's light and life for ourselves and our mother earth that is struggling for its life and to continue to support us.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is a way that you can become more enlightened about specific destructive overuses of our earth's life force that help us lament and seek to repent so our earth can celebrate God's Sabbath rest? 2. What sustainable actions to repair and renew the earth's life can you practically implement that will demonstrate our response to God's gift of life and rest for the creation? 3. Reflect on God's use of water, oil, ashes, bread, wine, fire, incense, stone and glass, breath and voices, sound and silence, ears, raised hands, heads, and feet to touch us with the sacramental saving actions. Allow this to inspire our reverence and compassion for the earth that has suffered "lost sabbaths."
<p>Week 5 March 21- 27</p> <p>Readings: Jer. 31:31-34 Heb. 5:7-9 Jn. 12: 20-33</p>	<p>Responsibility and Renewal</p>	<p>"Yet what should I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'" It has already been a year when, in March, church doors closed, , families were encouraged to stay apart, and normal human interaction suspended. Climate crises still continue and political divisions are heart wrenching. Yet this is our hour. Should we ask to be saved from it? Or, like Jesus, should we trust despite all circumstances and troubling feelings? In the midst of these challenges, God still blesses, still forgives. His glory still persists. So, how will we glorify God's name by <u>our</u> actions? How can we protect and renew the earth and each other?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Learn</u> the difference between a linear economy and a circular economy: sustainablecleveland.org 2. This week <u>notice</u> how much food you waste and why. Food waste accounts for the production of methane gas, a main contributor of greenhouse gases. 3. This week, <u>ask God</u> to show you one action you can take which manifests the covenant of love God has written on our hearts.
<p>Week 6 Mar 28- Apr. 3</p> <p>Readings: Is 50:4-7 Phil. 2: 6-11 Mk.14:1-15: 47</p>	<p>The Passion: The Only Way to Resurrection</p>	<p>"Not what I will but what you will." Christ acquiesced to the most extreme sacrifice, his life, for the sake of us. We, therefore, cannot deny the sacrifices we must make to gain Resurrection. We cannot avoid sacrifices to live fully and responsibly on this earth. We must embrace all that is asked of us. Remember we are not alone on this journey; we have this faith community to guide us and Christ resurrected.</p>	<p>Attend mass and take action each day of the Triduum :</p> <p>Holy Thursday: Watch the video "The Life Cycle of a Plastic Bottle": http://bit.ly/3rXriIC</p> <p>Good Friday: Learn how our food choices can save the planet. Watch this video: http://bit.ly/3pmnzCP</p> <p>Holy Saturday: Calculate your carbon footprint: http://bit.ly/3prflum</p>