

The *Season of Creation* presents an opportunity for the Catholic community and faith communities worldwide to renew their commitment to be good stewards of God's great gift within the created universe, Earth. We need to be thankful to God and we also need to make informed personal/communal choices in our society rife with waste and focused on consumerism. The Pope has made the Church's position very clear in his Encyclical, *Laudato Si*.

Top Ten Takeaways from Laudato Si

1. The Spiritual perspective is now part of the discussion on the environment
2. The poor are disproportionately affected by climate change
3. Less is more
4. Catholic social teaching now includes teaching on the environment
5. Discussions about ecology can be grounded in the Bible and church tradition
6. Everything is connected—including the economy
7. Scientific research on the environment is to be praised and used
8. Widespread indifference and selfishness worsen environment problems
9. Global dialogue and solidarity are needed
10. A change of heart is required

James Martin, SJ/America Magazine, June 18, 2015
<https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2015/06/18/top-ten-takeaways-laudato-si>

Pope Francis' Encyclical is available at the Vatican website
www.vatican.va (search Encyclicals)

Your Personal Action Guide for the Environment by Jonathan Foley is a practical tool to direct you in assessing and modifying personal behavior regarding the resources of Earth.

<https://globalecoguy.org/a-personal-action-guide-for-the-environment-20d70fcdd840>

Dr. Foley presents many ways to have a positive impact on the environment. Here are some suggestions that we will use to focus on Season of Creation 2021 in our parish.

Please consider committing to one item each week during the Season of Creation.

FOOD Reduce Food Waste

- plan menus to avoid waste
- shop at farmers' markets
- eat less meat/dairy
- shift from red meat to white meat
- choose grass fed meat
- support sustainable farms and fisheries

WATER Reduce Water Waste

- in landscaping choose drought friendly plants
- install efficient irrigation systems
- identify and fix leaks
- install efficient showerheads and faucet aerators

ENERGY Reduce Energy Waste

- replace incandescent bulbs with LED bulbs
- refrain from hand washing dishes; machine wash with full load
- use public transportation, bikes or walk

"Our personal actions can't replace meaningful changes in policy, but they do add up — directly by lowering our footprint, and indirectly by sending signals to the rest of the world. Those signals help move money, change minds, inspire others, and drive more good policy discussions. Living a little more sustainably can be good for you, your pocketbook, and the world around you. So why not start today?"
—Jonathan Foley

Prayer

Let us remember the power of prayer. Ask God for guidance and help.

Let us continue or restore the tradition of prayer before meals, thanking all who have helped to provide the meal for our table.

As an example:

Lord, we thank those who have grown and harvested our food, those who brought it to market and those who have prepared our meal. And most of all, we thank You, Creator God, for making it all possible. Amen

Highlights for each week of the Season of Creation 2021:

Week of September 1-5

Focus – Food

Week of September 6-11

Focus – Water

Week of September 12-18

Focus – Energy

Week of September 19-25

Focus – Global Cooperation

September 22nd –

*Interfaith Prayer Service for Creation
Wednesday - 7pm at Holy Saviour
Church, Westmont*

September 25th – Newton Creek Cleanup

Week of September 26-October 3

Focus – Personal Accountability

*October 4th - Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi
Blessing of the Animals
(time and locations tba)*



THE SEASON OF CREATION, 2021: RESOURCES

YouTube:

- Understanding Laudato Si (full encyclical) with DANIEL P. HORAN, OFM, plus discussion of SEASONS OF CREATION.
- GRETA THUNBERG, 3 part series on updated climate around the world: A YEAR TO CHANGE THE WORLD (PBS)
- SIR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH: new series, OUR PLANET. WE HAVE NO TIME TO LOSE. THE WORLD IN 2050. THE TRUTH ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE.

TED Talk:

- Katharine Hayhoe, THE MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU CAN DO TO FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE; TALK ABOUT IT (17:12)

Other:

- NATIONAL CATHOLIC REPORTER publications:
<https://www.ncronline.org/>
 - EARTHBEAT (stories of climate crisis, faith and action) –
 - GLOBAL SISTERS REPORT Free Newsletters
- NCR Environment Correspondent –
[Brian Roewe@ncronline.org](mailto:Brian.Roewe@ncronline.org)
- NCR Climate Editor –
Barbara Fraser – bfrase@ncronline.org
- Global Catholic Climate Movement –
(<https://catholicclimatemovement.global>)

Books:

The Uninhabitable Earth: Life After Warming (2019), David Wallace-Wells

Ask the Beasts, Elizabeth A Johnson, CSJ, (2014)

Creation and the Cross: The Mercy of God for a Planet in Peril, Elizabeth A Johnson CSJ, (2018)

Ecology at the Heart of Faith: A Change of Heart that Leads to a New Way Of Living on Earth, Denis Edwards (2006)

Laudato Si, On Care for Our Common Home, Pope Francis/Encyclical Letter USCCB, Washington, DC, 2015

Books (continued):

The Beloved Amazon, Pope Francis Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation, 2020.

Climate, Catastrophe, and Faith: How Changes in Climate Drive Religious Upheaval, Philip Jenkins

Church Statements-pastoral-letters-etc /books
(<https://catholicclimatemovement.global>)

Newsletters, on-going updated news on environment, climate

- <https://coveringclimatenow.org> – THE CLIMATE BEAT/weekly NEWSLETTER
- GCCM – Global Catholic Climate Movement
- Woodwell Climate Research Center (webinars, videos, updates)
- New Yorker Newsletter – Bill McKibbin (2x week)
- New York Times – Climate Fwd: our email newsletter (Brad Plumer)
- CCNow partner NOWTHIS has launched NOW THIS EARTH, new platform focusing on climate and the environment. New & Promising.
- <https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/> – Newsletter
- Commonweal – <https://www.commonwealmagazine.org>
- America – Newsletter/
<https://www.americamagazine.org/faith>

Significant Article:

The New York Times
<https://www.nytimes.com/article/climate-change-global-warming-faq.html>

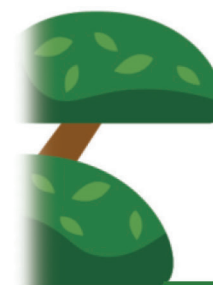
THE SCIENCE OF CLIMATE CHANGE EXPLAINED: FACTS, EVIDENCE AND PROOF
Julia Rosen, Ph.D., April 19, 2021

Ecological Carbon Footprint Calculator:

<https://www.footprintcalculator.org/>



SEASON OF CREATION



A Home For All?

Renewing the Family of God

September 1
through
October 4, 2021

