



SEASON OF CREATION 2021

A HOME FOR ALL?
Renewing the Oikos of God

ARCHINDY CREATION CARE
COMMISSION



ArchIndy
Creation Care
Ministry

YOU ARE INVITED...

TO CELEBRATE THE SEASON OF CREATION

Every year, from September 1 to October 4, on the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the Catholic Church joins Christians all over the world to celebrate the Season of Creation. This is a time to renew our relationship with God in gratitude for his gifts and our commitment as caretakers and stewards of all he made.

Contact: mail@ourcommonhome.org
with any questions.

Check us out on social media!

  CommonHomeIndy

 ourcommonhome.flocknote.com

INCLUDED IN THIS TOOLKIT

- Ideas for Parishes
- School or Classroom Activities
- Options for Home
- Youth Initiatives

THIS YEAR...

We invite you to consider other ways to grow closer to God and focus on care for the environment as God's creation and how it is a "home for all" during this Season of Creation.

DIOCESAN-WIDE EVENTS

01

Tree Sale

02

Green Mass

03

Environmental
Justice Dialogue



Sustainable living changes are charitable works which inspire us to an interior conversion that will extend outward to continued advocacy and justice.

1.

Native Tree and Wildflower Sale

Orders due September 8, 2021

Purchase online at

www.OurCommonHome.org/trees

Pickups in late September at Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Beech Grove and Marian University PLUS other locations throughout central and southern Indiana TBD.

Proceeds from the sale will fund programs of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis Creation Care Ministry and Marian University Nina Mason Pulliam EcoLab.



"The Eucharist joins heaven and earth; it embraces and penetrates all creation. The world which came forth from God's hands returns to him in blessed and undivided adoration: in the bread of the Eucharist, "creation is projected towards divinization, towards the holy wedding feast, towards unification with the Creator himself".- Pope Benedict XVI, Homily for the Mass of Corpus Domini (15 June 2006)

2.

"Green" Mass

We join together to recognize that we are all connected in the protection of our planet and to answer Pope Francis' call to "cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation."

September 28, 2021 6:00 PM

Celebrated by Father Rick Ginther

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church
5333 E. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN
46219



"I've been chosen by a higher power to do this work. Every day, I complain, protest and object, but it takes such vigilance and activism to keep legislators on their toes and government accountable to the people on environmental issues. I've been thrown in jail twice for getting in the way of big business, but I don't regret anything I've ever done, and I don't think I'll ever stop as long as I'm breathing."- Hazel Johnson, Catholic and Mother of Environmental Justice

By unknown - Original publication: <http://aaeachicago.blogspot.com/2011/01/hazel-m-johnson-dies-mother-of.html> Immediate source: <http://aaeachicago.blogspot.com/2011/01/hazel-m-johnson-dies-mother-of.html>, Fair use, <https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?curid=57263927>

3.

Environmental Justice Dialogue

Coordinated by Creation Care Commission members and Sister Gail Trippett, parish life coordinator of Holy Angels and St. Rita parishes.

Date/Location TBA at www.OurCommonHome.org/soc

“The environment is God’s gift to everyone, and in our use of it we have a responsibility towards the poor, towards future generations, and towards humanity as a whole.”

~ Pope Benedict XVI Encyclical letter Caritas in Veritate, No. 48 2009



From the Old and New Testaments Christianity has included, if not emphasized, our vocation to care for creation and for 'the least of these'.



More events around ArchIndy

Parishes and ecumenical groups around the Archdiocese of Indianapolis are hosting prayer services, film screenings, and more this Season of Creation.

View all events at www.OurCommonHome.org/soc

Do you have an event to add to this list? Please email details to mail@ourcommonhome.org.



Season of Creation 2021 Prayer

Creator of All, We are grateful that from your communion of love you created our planet to be a home for all. By your Holy Wisdom you made the Earth to bring forth a diversity of living beings that filled the soil, water and air. Each part of creation praises you in their being, and cares for one another from our place in the web of life. With the Psalmist, we sing your praise that in your house “even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young.” We remember that you call human beings to keep your garden in ways that honor the dignity of each creature and conserve their place in the abundance of life on Earth. But we know that our will to power pushes the planet beyond her limits. Our consumption is out of harmony and rhythm with Earth’s capacity to heal herself. Habitats are left barren or lost. Species are lost and systems fail. Where reefs and burrows, mountaintops and ocean deeps once teemed with life and relationships, wet and dry deserts lie empty, as if uncreated. Human families are displaced by insecurity and conflict, migrating in search of peace. Animals flee fires, deforestation and famine, wandering in search of a new place to find a home to lay their young and live. In this Season of Creation, we pray that the breath of your creative Word would move our hearts, as in the waters of our birth and baptism. Give us faith to follow Christ to our just place in the beloved community. Enlighten us with the grace to respond to your covenant and call to care for our common home. In our tilling and keeping, gladden our hearts to know that we participate with your Holy Spirit to renew the face of your Earth, and safeguard a home for all. In the name of the One who came to proclaim good news to all creation, Jesus Christ. Amen.

2021 Theme and Logo



SEASON OF CREATION

A Greek word for the Earth community is oikos. Oikos is the root of the word oikoumene, or ecumenical, which describes our ‘common home’, as Pope Francis calls it in *Laudato Si’*. Our common home, the Earth belongs to God, and each beloved creature belongs to this common oikos. By rooting the theme in the concept of oikos, we point to the integral web of relationships that sustain the wellbeing of the Earth. The word ecology (oikologia) describes the relationships between animals, plants, non-sentient organisms and minerals that each play a vital role in maintaining the balance of this beloved community.



This year's logo for the Season of Creation is Abraham's tent, symbolizing “A home for all”. Abraham and Sarah opened their tent as a home for three strangers, who turned out to be God's angels (Genesis 18). By creating a home for all, their act of radical hospitality became a source of great blessing. Abraham's tent is a symbol of our ecumenical call to practice creation care as an act of radical hospitality, safeguarding a place for all creatures, human and more human, in our common home, the household (oikos) of God.



This Season of Creation, consider pitching “Abraham's tent” in the church garden or green space as a sign of hospitality for all beings who are excluded. Communities could be invited to pray with and for the vulnerable of the community. Perhaps bring parts of creation into the tent to pray with you. The tent can also be present as a symbol during events or in worship throughout the Season of Creation as a symbol of the community's intention to create a home for all.

Reflections



In the Mass, during the Eucharistic Prayer, the priest proclaims, “Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation!” We know that the Eucharist is the “source and summit” of our Catholic faith, and we find in the Blessed Sacrament a connection to the Earth as well. As Pope Francis explains in the *Laudato Si* paragraph 236, “It is in the Eucharist that all that has been created finds its greatest exaltation...Joined to the incarnate Son, present in the Eucharist, the whole cosmos gives thanks to God.” Can you imagine the whole cosmos giving thanks to God? Along with all people throughout time, does this vision include animals? Plants? Rocks and minerals? Planets and galaxies? What does this look like for you? The next time you are at Mass, call this vision to mind. See how your experience of the Mass might change as a result of this view.



As you evaluate your current actions and discern what next steps you might be called to, think about the following:

- What are the spiritual and environmental contexts for my actions?
- What does the Bible say about this?
- How does it impact the most vulnerable?
- How does it protect the earth?



Oikos, the Greek word for ‘home’, is the root word for ‘economy’ – which, at a global level, is about planetary housekeeping. How far have modern understandings of the importance of the economy drifted from the root meaning of creating a secure and just home for all?



Pray

The following pages will give some ideas for ways that you can pray for and with God's Creation because we know that prayer is the foundation of our relationship with God and with one another. Prayer enables us to hear the voice of the Lord, so we know how he is calling us to live and love in the world.



Learn

As disciples of the Lord Jesus who are sent on mission, we need to know the mission field. The ideas for ways to learn more about caring for God's Creation will help us to discern the areas of concern in our world and ways to meet those needs.



Act

Once we have been formed as disciples, our faith must be put into practice. The ideas for actions to care for our common home will give practical ways for us all to steward the gifts that have been given to us all by our Creator.

LIVING THE SEASON OF CREATION

AT CHURCH · AT SCHOOL · AT HOME · AND...

IN YOUTH MINISTRY!

All creation is a gift. Through prayer, our hope for the earth is rooted in Jesus Christ. Every small step we take in our personal lives is an action to protect God's gifts and those who are the most vulnerable. Here are some ways young people can grow closer to God and focus on his handiwork during the Season of Creation:



PRAY

- Practice earth journaling, and use one of these [33 photos, prayers, poems and reflections](#) offered by the Paulist Center in Boston as a writing prompt.
- Visit an [Archdiocesan Outdoor Sacred Space](#) as a group/class, including mass, time for reflection and walking in nature. Allow time in silence to speak to God from your heart as you observe everything around you.
- Recite this [Prayer for Our Common Home](#) when you gather this month.



LEARN



- Explore the Action tab on the [Laudato Si' Movement's](#) website to discover what Pope Francis has said in regards to various environmental challenges and the light our faith gives us to respond.
- [Discuss Laudato Si'](#) at your youth group meeting, perhaps with a format like the one suggested by Catholic Charities.
- Host an online film viewing party - choose an inspiring story or [one of these recommended by NCR](#), and host a discussion afterwards.



ACT

- Hold a neighborhood or local park cleanup.
- Cook a sustainable supper (low-carbon/locally grown) to share with family or friends, [using some of these recipes](#) or others you find that are local, plant-based and with no/shorter cooking times.
- Assess your family home with the [Bright Action online carbon calculator](#) to see opportunities to reduce home energy use. You can even join or create a community group to see the joint impact you are making.

You are also invited to the Archdiocese of Indianapolis' Green Mass on September 28 at Our Lady of Lourdes to gather as a faith community in gratitude for all God gives us in creation and renewed commitment to care for it.

Tag us on social media to share your actions and encourage others!   @CommonHome Indy

LIVING THE SEASON OF CREATION

AT CHURCH · IN YOUTH MINISTRY · AT HOME · AND...

AT SCHOOL!

All creation is a gift. Through prayer, our hope for the earth is rooted in Jesus Christ. Every small step we take in our personal lives is an action to protect God's gifts and those who are the most vulnerable. Here are some ways school communities can grow closer to God and focus on his handiwork during the Season of Creation:



PRAY

- Hold a [Laudato Si' Mass](#) at a school liturgy during the Season of Creation.
- Go outside to reflect on God's presence with the [Earth Examen](#).
- Pray with 1 Chronicles 16:34. Create a gratitude journal to write one thing to be thankful for each day to God who gave us his beautiful creation.
- Recite the [Peace Prayer of St. Francis](#) each morning or afternoon during the Season of Creation or starting September 22 for 9 school days before the Feast of St. Francis on Oct 4.





LEARN

- What did Pope Francis mean when he talked about throwaway culture ([Laudato Si' 22](#))? Research a community around the world that is impacted by excess waste.
- For younger elementary children, watch [Laudato Si' for Kids](#). Roll the [Earth Cube](#) each day and talk about what they can do to care for our common home.
- Prepare a presentation for All Saints Day on the [10 Saints Whose Care for Creation Still Inspires Us Today](#).
- Dedicate a current events day to articles about environmental justice. How do we view these events through the lens of Catholic Social Teaching?



ACT

- Hold a [Climate Action Day](#) for the whole school to pray and take action.
- Conduct a [food waste audit](#) to take steps towards becoming a zero waste cafeteria.
- Hold a fundraiser / green t-shirt day with money supporting the [Felege Hiywot Center](#) in Indianapolis, recipient of a Catholic Campaign for Human Development grant teaching leadership, environmental responsibility, and community service to at risk youth.
- Implement a no idling policy for pick-up/drop-off.
- Create a permanent [recycled art mosaic](#) for a school wall to emphasize the importance of reducing and reusing waste.

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LIVING THE SEASON OF CREATION AT CHURCH · IN YOUTH MINISTRY · AT SCHOOL · AND... AT HOME!

All creation is a gift. Through prayer, our hope for the earth is rooted in Jesus Christ. Every small step we take in our personal lives is an action to protect God's gifts and those who are the most vulnerable. Here are some ways individuals and families can grow closer to God and focus on his handiwork during the Season of Creation:



PRAY

- Take a [timeout for prayer](#).
- Find a quiet spot outside to reflect and pray the [Laudato Si' Chaplet](#). For young children, observe and draw creation through the senses.
- Read and pray with the story of creation – Genesis Chapter 1 & Chapter 2:1-3. For young children, [Read](#) or [Watch a Reading of When God Made the World](#).





LEARN

- Explore the patron saints of ecology, St. Francis of Assisi (Children: [7 minute Video](#)) and St. Kateri Tekakwitha (Adults: [Audio on Formed](#)).
- Discover how caring for creation can be both a spiritual and corporal work of mercy ([Pope Francis' message](#) for the World Day of Prayer for Creation, 2016).
- What is an Ecological Conversion? Start with [4 Steps to an Ecological Conversion](#).
- Dive into Catholic social teaching on creation care through [recordings](#) from the Indiana Catholic Conference's recent Laudato Si' series.



ACT

- Create a [Saint Kateri Habitat](#) by planting trees, wildflowers, or even indoor plants! ([Order](#) from our native tree and flower sale. Includes kids activity)
- Be an Eco Consumer. Replace 1-3 disposable household items with a reusable option, divest from Fossil Fuels, donate to a local project. Bring your own cup to church events.
- Focus on improving one type of recycling such as aluminum, glass, or clothing. Use [Earth911](#) to find the right place to recycle. Learn how to [recycle right!](#)
- If you rent where you live, pick [one action from each of these categories](#) to complete during the Season of Creation.
- Volunteer with an organization who is working in communities to provide clean water, air, or combat food waste.

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LIVING THE SEASON OF CREATION

AT HOME · IN YOUTH MINISTRY · AT SCHOOL · AND...

AT CHURCH!

All creation is a gift. Through prayer, our hope for the earth is rooted in Jesus Christ. Every small step we take in our personal lives is an action to protect God's gifts and those who are the most vulnerable. Here are some ways parishes can grow closer to God and focus on his handiwork during the Season of Creation:



PRAY

- Include copies of the "Season of Creation 2021" prayer in each pew. Pray the prayer together as a parish after Communion.
- Host your own Green Mass, St. Francis of Assisi Pet Blessing, or Season of Creation prayer service. For ideas, visit www.catholicclimatecovenant.org.
- Each week during the Season of Creation (September 1- October 4) include a petition related to caring for God's creation.
- Consider selecting songs about Creation for your liturgy such as <https://www.ocp.org/en-us/collections/dg/146/our-common-home>





LEARN

- Include a bulletin announcement, Flocknote or newsletter paragraph, or social media post (or all three!) each week that includes a short prayer for creation and a daily action for each week.
- Use this discussion guide from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and Catholic Relief Services to host a one-session study on Caring for God's Creation and what the Church teaches.
- For Sunday School classes, use the book Green Street Park (ages 4-7) from the USCCB and accompanying activities available from Loyal Press, or the lesson plans available from Catholic Relief Services for grades 1-8 on Care for Creation.
- If you are a priest or deacon, look through the homily helps for September 2021 provided by the Catholic Climate Covenant and try to incorporate some of the ideas.



ACT

- Switch to low-flow faucets and toilets, and to energy efficient lightbulbs. Water processing accounts for approximately 3% of energy use in the United States, and electricity generation accounts for approximately 39%, according to the EPA. Saving water and electricity means saving energy.
- Encourage parishioners to join the Catholic Petition for COP26. Locally, sign up for alerts from the Indiana Catholic Conference.

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