



Environmental Stewardship

Diocese of Worcester, MA

2022 LENTEN CARE FOR CREATION CALENDAR

In his encyclical Laudato Si, Pope Francis reminds us that human life is grounded in three fundamental relationships - with God, with our neighbor, and with the earth itself. (LS 66) This Lent let us strengthen, repair, and restore these relationships through prayer, increased awareness of the plight of the poor, and active response to the cry of the earth itself. Outlined below are weekly themes to be followed until Easter. The Mass readings for each Sunday are listed, along with stewardship action items for each week. These can be done by families, school groups, religious education classes or individuals. If you miss a week, it's okay! Just pick up where you left off. Every act of goodness counts and together we can make a big difference!

Date	Weekly Theme	Theme Illustration	Did you Know?
<p>Ash Wednesday <u>March 2, 2022</u> Jl 2:12-18 Psalm 51 2 Cor 5:20-6:2 Ps 95:8 Mt 6:1-6, 16-18</p>	<p>Response to the Cry of the Poor</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •As of January 2020, the state of MA was listed as 6th overall in the US with 17,975 people experiencing homelessness on any given day. (1) •Today, nearly 1 in 6 children in Massachusetts, live in poverty without basic necessities like clothing. (2) Donate gently used items to Abby's, Catholic Charities, Salvation Army, Goodwill or Habitat for Humanity. •Many Salvation Army stores offer monthly supplies of diapers. Replenish those banks with donations to keep this going. •In Massachusetts, 566,930 people are facing hunger, and of them, 120,250 are children (3). Volunteer to make a difference in those lives.
<p>1st Sunday of Lent <u>March 6, 2022</u> Dt 26: 4-10 Ps 91: 1-2, 10-15 Rom 10: 8-13 Mt 4:4b Lk 4: 1-13</p>	<p>Response to the Cry of the Earth</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Approximately 2,200 plants have been documented in MA, and about 725 of them are non-natives that are considered established. (4) •Collecting water that would otherwise be wasted (rain barrels, pre-heat shower water, water boiled for cooking) and using it to water potted plants, lawns, gardens, or vegetable beds, will conserve water. •Composting can create richer lawns, while also reducing methane emissions at landfills, and the need for fertilizers, thereby leaving a smaller carbon footprint. Give the raw materials back to the soil and to God. •Native planting requires less water and no fertilizers, helps reduce pollution and restores natural habitats.
<p>2nd Sunday of Lent <u>March 13, 2022</u> Gn 15:5-12, 17-18 Ps 27:1, 7-9, 13-14 Phil 3:17-4:1 Mt 17:5 Lk 9:28b-36</p>	<p>Ecological Spirituality</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •There are 12 Shrines and Holy Places in the state of Massachusetts & countless more outdoor stations of the cross and rosary gardens. •Prayerful walks in the woods and on farms will allow one to recognize how humans fit in with the Earth - the interconnectedness between the two. •People who are in nursing homes, long-term care facilities or homebound are often very lonely. Visiting them lifts their spirits and brings the light of Christ into their lives. •Reaching out to those who are no longer active members of our Church would be instrumental in formation for both ourselves and those we seek to evangelize.
<p>3rd Sunday of Lent <u>March 20, 2022</u> Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15 Ps 103:1-4, 6-8, 11 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12 Mt 4:17 Lk 13:1-9</p>	<p>Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Humans consume about 5 grams of plastic a week, which is the equivalent of a credit card. (5) •Organic wastes, such as food and yard waste, make up 25-50% of what people throw away (6) . Composting can cut down on your overall trash as well as reduce your carbon footprint. •Observing meatless days, supporting B Corporation & Certified Fair Trade companies, as well as biking and walking for shorter trips help us live sustainable lifestyles. •50% of all plastic produced is for single-use purposes - used for minutes and then thrown away. (7) Avoid single-use items such as plastic bags and straws.
<p>4th Sunday of Lent <u>March 27, 2022</u> Jos 5:9a, 10-12 Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 2 Cor 5:17-21 Lk 15:18 Lk 15:1-3, 11-32</p>	<p>Ecological Economics</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Roughly 250 Catholic institutions have committed to end investments in coal, oil and gas industries. (8) •Work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continuing participation in God's creation. To protect the dignity of work, we must support decent and fair wage, as well as, equal opportunity employers. •Island countries and those reliant on the fishing industry are significantly affected by climate change, but do not have the economic resources to rebuild. •Globally, 82 million people have been forced from their homes by conflict and persecution - and 4 in 5 of them from countries on the frontline of the climate emergency. (9) By supporting parish fundraising we support our brothers and sisters.

<p>5th Sunday of Lent <u>April 3, 2022</u> Is 43:16-21 Ps 126:1-6 Phil 3:8-14 Jl 2:12-13 Jn 8:1-11</p>	<p>Ecological Education</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •If we are to meet the goal of Net Zero by 2050, we have 28 years to get rid of all gas powered automobiles, oil/gas furnaces, and to switch to carbon free electricity. •Unless oil prices pull back sharply, it seems likely that the national average gas price will hit \$4.00 per gallon at some point this year, a level not seen since 2008. (10) •Participating in Earth Day cleanups enhances neighborhood quality of life by making life healthier, less stressful and more pleasant. (11) •Habitat loss poses the greatest threat to species. The world's habitats continue to disappear as they are harvested for human consumption. (12) Learning more about the causes of habitat depletion and what can be done to prevent this loss will help preserve our planet.
<p>Palm Sunday <u>April 10, 2022</u> Is 50:4-7 Ps 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24 Phil 2:6-11 Phil 2:8-9 Lk 22:14-23:56</p>	<p>Community Resilience and Empowerment</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •In the Nov. 3, 2020 election, 3,657,972 ballots were cast in the election, equalling 76 percent of registered voters in MA and shattering the previous turnout record set in 2016. (13) •As Catholics we are called to consider Catholic Social Teaching which guides us to be advocates for a variety of issues related to dignity of life and human rights. •Environmental advocacy means being honest and responsible for your actions, sharing important information with the general public in a way that they can understand, and above all else, it means stewardship and speaking up for those who cannot speak up for themselves. (14)
<p>Easter <u>April 17, 2022</u> Acts 10:34a, 37-43 Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 Col 3:1-4 1 Cor 5:7b-8a Jn 20:1-9</p>	<p>"May our struggles and our concern for this planet never take away the joy of our hope." LS 244</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •MA Department of Environmental Restoration has completed over 100 projects, restoring acres of tidal wetlands and miles of rivers and freshwater habitats. (15) •As a global family we successfully took the steps to reverse the depletion of the ozone layer and can continue to succeed in our efforts to address climate change. •Planting milkweed or other native plant and pollinator seeds will ensure biodiversity and renewal of native habitats. •As trees grow, they help stop climate change by removing carbon dioxide from the air, storing carbon in the trees and soil and releasing oxygen into the atmosphere. (16) While it's not enough by itself, planting trees can assist in offsetting the CO2 produced.

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CARE OF CREATION IN ACTION

- Create a kit with basic necessities (i.e. small denomination gift card to food vendors, toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, socks and undergarments) that can be provided to those less fortunate. Choose drop off sites ahead of time so you can determine your kit quantity goal.
- Participate in a clean up day in your community. If none is planned, organize your friends and family for a local project as a model.
- Create a kit with native plant seeds (ie. Milkweed, Marigold, Bluestar, etc.), that can be used at home, on church grounds, at school or place of work. Share the kits with those who have spaces lacking in native and pollinator-friendly gardening. Help to restore biodiversity in Massachusetts.
- Partner with community organizations such as schools, libraries, town halls, and senior centers to promote environmental educational themes for children and adults.

Thank you for choosing to use our tool to celebrate Lent this year. Looking for more information on how you can Care for Creation? Please check us out at the following:



WE'RE ALL PART OF
GOD'S PLAN(ET)



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environment.worcesterdiocese.org

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LAUDATO SI'
 Action Platform