

Integral Faith

"Homily helps and liturgy resources highlighting care for our common home."



Catholic Climate Covenant™
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

Homily Helps, Petitions, and Bulletin Notices for the First Sunday of Lent, Cycle C (March 9, 2025)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

[Deuteronomy 26]: Therefore, now I have brought you the first fruits of the products of the soil which you, O Lord have given me . And having set them before the Lord your God, you should bow down in his presence.

[Psalm 91]: Because he clings to me, I will deliver him; I will set him on high because he acknowledges my name

[Romans 10:]: Here there is no difference between Jew and Greek.; all have the same Lord, rich in mercy toward all who'll upon him.

Luke 4:1-13] Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days.

Today's first reading looks back to Moses' final speech to the Israelites before they cross the Jordan into the Promised Land. Moses recalls the saving acts of God throughout their history, notably to their refugee ancestor Jacob. In a ritual of thanksgiving the Israelites offer baskets of the produce of the new land to God. Paul urges the church at Rome to believe in Jesus' resurrection and saving grace with their whole hearts. This faith will allow them to move beyond prejudice and feelings of superiority among themselves, so that they may be a true community. Jesus, led by the Holy Spirit goes out to the desert to wrestle with Satan who tempts him to betray his calling by using his spiritual power for egotistical gains. Lent calls us to move beyond focusing our lives on our own comfort, convenience and the search for admiration and to answer the call of the earth which is suffering from drought, fires, floods, storms and rising carbon levels because of the climate emergency. Climate change is creating more and more refugees who can no longer produce food for their communities and who are being shut out of wealthier countries.

The Lenten fast is about more than giving up candy, alcohol or TV. For us it could become a time of gratitude for the abundance of food we enjoy and to advocate for policies that will restore the green matrix that sustains us all, or refrain from wasting food. Especially now, we need to welcome refugees into our communities, or wear sustainable clothing, or participate in other practices that allow us to walk lightly on our earth. Prayer of gratitude and prayer of petition for a more believing, hopeful heart will lead to the God whose love has no bounds.

This resource is provided by Catholic Climate Covenant in collaboration with the Integral Faith Team,
a group of male and female religious, priests, and lay people dedicated to serving the Church.

Passages from *Laudato Si'* to Note:

Climate change is a global problem with grave implications: environmental, social, economic, political and for the distribution of goods. It represents one of the principle challenges facing humanity in our day...Many of the poor live in areas particularly affected by phenomena related to warming, and their means of subsistence are largely dependent on natural reserves and ecosystemic services such as agriculture, fishing and forestry. They have no other financial activities or resources which can enable them to adapt to climate change or to face natural disasters, and their access to social services and protection is very limited. For example, changes in climate lead them to migrate; this in turn affects the livelihood of the poor, who are then forced to leave their homes, with great uncertainty for their future and that of their children. There has been a tragic rise in the number of migrants seeking to flee from the growing poverty caused by environmental degradation. They are not recognized by international conventions as refugees; they bear the loss of the lives they have left behind, without enjoying any legal protection whatsoever. Sadly, there is widespread indifference to such suffering...(#25)

We are always capable of going out of ourselves towards the other...we fail to set limits on ourselves in order to avoid the suffering of others or the deterioration of our surroundings. Disinterested concern for others, and the rejection of every form of self-centeredness and self-absorption, are essential if we truly wish to care for our brothers and sisters and for the natural environment. These attitudes also attune us to the moral imperatives of assessing the impact of every action and personal decision on the world around us. If we can overcome individualism, we will truly be able to develop a different lifestyle and bring about significant changes in society. (#208)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That we learn to see and act with compassion for the the migrants of this world, let us pray to the Lord...

Option 2: That we work to become conscious of the impact our lifestyle has on our common home, let us pray to the Lord...

Bulletin Notice

Care for Creation: Plain text

For more information, see: www.catholicclimatecovenant.org

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

Webpage: <http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/english-homily-help>

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