

# 2026 Lenten Laudato Si' Calendar, P1

Created by the Environment Ministry of the Church of St. Francis Xavier, NYC

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Feb.15 Lent in the year 2026 is Lent in difficult times. As we journey together through the weeks ahead, let us be hopeful and open to the light we find.</b>	<b>16 To guide us through our Lenten journey, on Sundays we have Pope Leo XIV's observations on hope. Be present to hope. Hope leads to action, and our actions inspire others.</b>	<b>17 Dedicate these forty days to healing the earth. Each day, do something for Earth &amp; the poor of the earth. Pray. Learn. Act. Hope.</b> 	<b>18 Ash Wednesday</b> <i>"We must shift from collecting data to caring, and from environmental discourse to an ecological conversion that transforms both personal and communal lifestyles."</i> Pope Leo XIV	<b>19 Integral ecology, a key concept in Laudato Si'</b> , means caring for the earth & caring for the poor. Right now, immigrants are suffering from unjust treatment. Let's pray for them, and raise our voices against their unjust treatment.	<b>20 Friday Fasting</b> can help us be more aware of God's gifts. As you fast, try loving acts of kindness for our environment and use the money saved for the poor and those who are food insecure.	<b>21 Be a Catholic voice.</b> The Minnesota Chapter of the Laudato Si' Movement asks our support by signing their statement on ICE actions in Minn. 
<b>22 "Christian hope is not passive optimism, but a mandate to create new signs of hope through charity and justice."</b> Pope Leo XIV	<b>23 We can reduce our carbon footprint by eating more fish and plant-based meals. Raising livestock, especially beef, requires a lot of land and water &amp; is a major cause of deforestation. Learn more at meatlessmondays.org</b>	<b>24 In the U.S., 30 - 40% of food is wasted</b> , costing the average family \$1,500/yr. Save money and reduce waste in your daily life. Learn how to store fresh produce. Make <a href="http://SavetheFood.com">SavetheFood.com</a> your go-to guide.	<b>25 Look ahead. Join us this Friday, 2/27, at 6:30 pm at St. Francis Xavier Church, 55 W. 16th St., for "The Stations of the Cross in the Wake of the Climate Crisis", In person &amp; streamed. See 2/27 for text formats.</b>	<b>26 Do you ever buy foods produced by regenerative agricultural processes?</b> They are a big benefit for the planet & worth the extra cost. Look for the R & O label. Learn more at  rodaleinstitute.org The O is for organic.	<b>27 The text for the Stations of the Cross in the wake of the Climate Crisis</b> are posted on the Catholic Climate Movement website in Flip Book & PDF format in Spanish and English. <a href="http://CatholicClimateMovement.org/resources/stations">CatholicClimateMovement.org/resources/stations</a>	<b>28 Lent is a time of transition.</b> Create practices that you can carry throughout the year. Use the <b>Ignatian Eco Examen</b> as a starting point to check how you are doing: <a href="http://ecologicalexamen.org">ecologicalexamen.org</a>
<b>Mar 1 "Hope in God must lead to justice for the poor. We must never forget that we were saved in this hope, and need to remain firmly rooted therein."</b>	<b>2 2025, one of 3 hottest years on record. It's past time for us to reduce our carbon footprint. Good news: solar panels are cheaper than ever, state subsidies are still available, &amp; we can SWITCH our provider to a renewable source.</b>	<b>3 The Administration again pulled us out of the Paris Accord &amp; is stifling research on climate, but U.S. cities &amp; states say: WE ARE STILL IN.</b> Non-profits Earth Justice & NRDC are challenging rollbacks in court. Let's support them.	<b>4 "The real hope is not in something we think we can do, but in God, who is making something good out of it in some way we cannot see."</b> Thomas Merton	<b>5 2026 is the year of the used electric vehicle.</b> (InsideEVs + CarandDriver) Save thousands - many EV lease contracts are up and those EVs will be on the market. Grab one & save money & you won't pollute the air.	<b>6 Banks are a climate problem</b> when they fund climate-warming projects. Social pressure helped Bank of America agree to not fund deforestation-related projects. Social pressure works. <b>Check your bank's policies.</b>	<b>7 Climate writer &amp; activist Bill McKibben</b> gives us hope with his book <b>"Here Comes the Sun"</b> in which he charts the rapid expansion of renewable energy. A good read! 
<b>8 "In Christ, we too are seeds, and indeed, seeds of peace and hope. With love and perseverance, we can sow many seeds of justice and thus contribute to the renewal of hope."</b>	<b>9 Plastic production poisons the air. See "Cancer Alley" in St. James, LA, where a Black faith group, <b>Rise St. James</b>, has fought against new factories, citing racism. In Feb., a court ruled the case has merits! Hope prevails!</b>	<b>10 Purge the plastic!</b> Plastic kitchen utensils produce nano-particles which stay in the internal organs - including our brains - of humans and pets. Replace plastic cooking utensils with bamboo, wooden or metal utensils.	<b>11 "Hope begins in the dark, the stubborn hope that if you just show up and try to do the right thing, the dawn will come. You wait and watch and work: you don't give up". Anne Lamott</b>	<b>12 Plastic is in us and everywhere in our environment.</b> More purge items: plastic take-out containers (ask for a Chinese-style carton), laundry soap pods, coffee pods, plastic shopping bags (always carry a reusable bag).	<b>13 Microwaving food in plastic is a health risk.</b> The plastic releases toxic chemicals into the food. See <a href="http://BeyondPlastics.org">BeyondPlastics.org</a> for info. Opt for glass or microwavable dishware. Or skip the microwave and use the stove, with non-teflon cookware.	<b>14 How can we recycle "soft plastic"</b> e.g. plastic bags, plastic that doesn't hold a form, plastic that you can stretch. Collect them & find a store that has a deposit bin. More info at <a href="http://RecycleFind.com">RecycleFind.com</a> . Find a store near you at: <a href="http://plasticfilmrecycling.org">plasticfilmrecycling.org</a>

## 2026 Lenten Laudato Si' Calendar, P2

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>15</b> "We cannot call ourselves disciples of Jesus Christ without participating in his outlook on creation and his care for all that is fragile and wounded." 	<b>16</b> Jane Goodall died last year, but she had found <b>hope in the power of young people</b> . She inspired thousands of "Roots and Shoots" clubs in 60+ countries where youth decide what good they can do for their environment and social fabric.	<b>17</b> <b>Ship collisions kill whales.</b> Environmental organizations worked with the International Maritime Organization to have ships slow down or stop when whales are sighted. It has decreased whale deaths. Support nature organizations to <b>protect biodiversity.</b>	<b>18</b> "When you do nothing you feel overwhelmed and powerless. But when you get involved, you feel the sense of hope and accomplishment that comes from knowing you are working to make things better." <b>Maya Angelou</b>	<b>19</b> A <b>SNAG</b> is a dead tree that is still standing. Though dead, SNAGs continue to sequester carbon & provide habitat for wildlife. The federal "Fix Our Forests Act", has a snag: it promotes clearing SNAGs which opens up areas for total deforestation.	<b>20</b> Tomorrow, the <b>International Day of Forests</b> 2026, celebrates the vital role of forests economically and as a habitat for many species of birds, animals and insects. Let us commit to protect this keystone natural resource.	<b>21</b> Tomorrow, <b>World Water Day</b> 2026 focuses on safe & clean water as a human right. It supports women and girls having leadership & equal voice in water decisions. It's important where potable water is not the norm. "Where water flows, equality grows."
<b>22</b> "Hope is a constant source of joy, whatever our age, and when that hope has been tempered by fire over the course of a long life, it proves a source of deep happiness."	<b>23</b> <b>NY Catholic Advocacy for Our Common Home</b> , Catholics concerned about the environment are coming together one day this week to support bills that care for our common home. Contact Metro NY Catholic Climate Movement, for info: <a href="mailto:MNYCCM@gmail.com">MNYCCM@gmail.com</a>	<b>24</b> We can make an impact <b>advocating for state bills</b> on renewable energy, halting subsidies for fossil fuels, getting plastic & PFAS "forever" chemicals out of our waste stream & packaging. Contact <a href="mailto:MNYCCM@gmail.com">MNYCCM@gmail.com</a> for info.	<b>25</b> "Individual actions don't replace systemic change; they prepare the ground for it. They help us practice the world we're trying to build." <b>Sandra Goldman, dean, Columbia Climate School</b>	<b>26</b> <b>SureWeCan.org</b> is a grassroots organization of "canners" who collect bottles & cans for reimbursement. It helps their family income & keeps bottles off the streets. The <b>Bigger, Better, Bottle Bill</b> would help the environment & the canners. Help support it!	<b>27</b> Visit the <b>League of Conservation Voters</b> website for your state for action alerts on legislation affecting our environment and profiles of climate-conscience candidates. <b>For New York: nyclv.org</b> 	<b>28</b> <b>Environmental Voter Project</b> , a non-partisan non-profit that is data driven. It found that environmentalists are low propensity voters, and seeks to get them out to vote. Volunteer by writing postcards or making calls. <a href="http://environmentalvoter.org">environmentalvoter.org</a>
<b>29</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b> Let us pray, as Pope Leo asks, that "Almighty God will send us in abundance his "Spirit on high", so that these seeds and others like them, may bring forth an abundant harvest of peace and hope."	<b>30</b> "All powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love that we may protect life and beauty...." <b>(LS246)</b>	<b>31</b> "Oh God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned & forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world & not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution & destruction..." <b>(LS246)</b>	<b>Apr 1</b> "Praise the Lord from the earth, you great sea creatures and all the depths; fire and hail, snow and clouds, stormy wind, fulfilling his word; mountains and all hills; fruitful trees and all cedars." <b>Psalm 149</b>	<b>2</b> <b>Holy Thursday</b> Imagine yourself as a guest at the Last Supper. Step closer to the table & see who is seated there. Can you join as a disciple? Can you offer a commitment to care for God's creation?	<b>3</b> <b>Good Friday</b> Jesus dies on the wood of a tree....a tree of life for us. Let's renew our commitment to protect all life as God's creation & join our sacrifices with that of Jesus' to bring forth a New Creation ...on earth as it is in heaven. 	<b>4</b> <b>Holy Saturday</b> Let's continue our care for creation after Lent. Celebrate Earth Day 4/22 & consider taking the Laudato Si' Movement's Animator training. It starts April 15; register now. See <a href="http://laudatosimovment.org">laudatosimovment.org</a> . Blessings to you.

## 5 Glorious Easter

Christ is risen and all of creation with Him!

Savor the life and light that is in you and around you! ...the flowers bursting forth; friends and family; clean water and air! Be grateful for God's gift of creation! **Rejoice and be glad!**

