



What is Season of Creation?

You may have noticed a beautiful new Season of Creation liturgical banner in our midst! What is Season of Creation?

The Season of Creation is a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through celebration, conversion, and commitment together. During the Season of Creation, we join our sisters and brothers in the ecumenical family in prayer and action for our common home. Pope Francis made the Roman Catholic Church's warm welcoming of the season official in 2015.

The Season of Creation begins on September 1, World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, and ends on October 4, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology beloved by many Christian denominations. Throughout the month-long celebration, we come together in an annual ecumenical celebration of prayer and action for our common home.

How can I or my parish participate in the Season of Creation?

Individuals and communities are invited to participate through prayer, sustainability projects and advocacy.

- **Prayer:** Host an ecumenical prayer gathering that unites all Christians for the care of our common home. One option is to host an interactive [Feast of St. Francis](#) program, found annually at [catholicclimatecovenant.org](#)
- **Sustainability:** Lead a cleanup or carbon-reduction project that helps all of creation thrive (such as improving energy efficiency).
- **Advocacy:** Raise your voice for climate justice by participating in or leading an ongoing campaign that supports our common home.

What does our Catholic faith tell us about Creation?

Caring for creation is living out our Catholic faith. The Church, following the teachings of Jesus, throughout time has exhorted believers to work for the common good, which calls for dignifying life in all its forms, caring for our common

home, and committing to the construction of more just, supportive, fraternal and peaceful societies. These are some ways to achieve what Pope Francis calls integral ecology in his teaching letter, the Encyclical *Laudato Si* (2015).

Often, when we speak of creation, it is related to nature, animals, landscapes, the sun, the moon, but we are also aware that the human being is the culmination of our Father's creative work, "God saw all he had made, and indeed it was very good." (Gen 1:31), the Sacred Scripture states.

As Pope Francis wrote in *Laudato Si*, "'Everyone's talents and involvement are needed to redress the damage caused by human abuse of God's creation'. All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents." (LS 14).

Pledge of Commitment to Protect and Heal God's Creation

This Pledge of Commitment may be read in unison or in alternation:

*We have come to renew our covenant with God and with one another in Christ Jesus, our Lord.
We have come to help protect God's creation.*

We have come as followers of Jesus to commit ourselves anew to one another and to heal injustice and poverty.

We have come to stand together against all threats to life.

We have come to discover some new beauty every day in God's creation: the sunrise and sunset, birds, flowers and trees, rainbows in the sky, the stars, the many forms of life in the forest.

We have come to listen to the "music of the universe"- water flowing over rocks, the wind, trees bending in the wind, raindrops pattering the roof.

We will remember always that God speaks to us through the beauty of his creation, and we will try our best to answer God's call to reverence all that he has created.

– From *Prayers on the Care of Creation*, USCCB

We invite you to take part in this celebration on a personal, family, and community level! Share on social media with [#SeasonofCreation](#)