



SEASON of CREATION

2024 Green Guide

“Take good care of creation. St. Francis wanted that. People occasionally forgive, but nature never does. If we don’t take care of the environment, there’s no way of getting around it.

-Pope Francis

“I believe that Saint Francis is the example par excellence of care for the vulnerable and of an integral ecology lived out joyfully and authentically...He was particularly concerned for God’s creation and for the poor and outcast...He shows us just how inseparable the bond is between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society, and interior peace.”

~Pope Francis, Laudato Si’

“If we wish to build true peace, how can we separate or even set at odds, the protection of the environment and the protection of human life?”

~Pope Benedict XVI

Table of Contents

Introduction to the Season of Creation	03
Season of Creation Events and Opportunities at a Glance	04
Season of Creation Events and Opportunities in Detail	05
Three-part Speaker Series	06
Basilica Climate Action Community Meeting.....	06
The Feast of St. Francis Community Dinner and Celebration	07
Terra Divina: Listening to God Through Creation.....	08
Volunteer Opportunities in the Community	10
Green Tips and Meatless Recipes	15
Prayers.....	18
Frequently Asked Questions.....	22
Additional Resources.....	23
Acknowledgements.....	24

Introduction to the Season of Creation

By Dr. Johan van Parys, PhD

Managing Director of Ministries/ Director of Liturgy & Sacred Arts for The Basilica of Saint Mary

Let Justice and Peace Flow!

The late Dimitrios I, Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, recognizing the signs of the times, instituted the first Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation on September 1, 1989. In 2008 the World Council of Churches, of which the Catholic Church is not a member, established the Season of Creation between September 1 and October 4, the Feast of St. Francis and invited its members to mark these five weeks with prayer and action.

In 2015, Pope Francis declared that the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation was to be observed by the Catholic Church. His stated goal was that “the annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation may offer individual believers and communities a fitting opportunity to reaffirm their personal vocation to be stewards of Creation, to thank God for the wonderful handiwork which he has entrusted to our care, and to implore his help for the protection of Creation as well as his pardon for the sins committed against the world in which we live.”

Since then, Pope Francis has written a message on the importance of the care of Creation marking each World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. Bearing witness to our growing communion with our Orthodox sisters and brothers the message for 2017 was co-written by Pope Francis and Patriarch Bartholomew, the current Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople. In it they implored “those in positions of social and economic, as well as political and cultural responsibility to hear the cry of the earth and to attend to the needs of the marginalized, but above all to respond to the plea of millions and support the consensus of the world for the healing of our wounded creation.”

In 2019, Pope Francis promoted and embraced the ecumenical opportunity not only to honor the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation but also to celebrate the Season of Creation stating that “in this ecological crisis affecting everyone, we should also feel close to all other men and women of good will, called to promote stewardship of the network of life of which we are part.”

In this year’s message for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, entitled Hope and Act with Creation, Pope Francis holds that “The protection of creation is not only an ethical issue, but one that is eminently theological, for it is the point where the mystery of man and the mystery of God intersect.” As a result, he invites us to live in harmony with one another and with all of Creation in such a way that “our lives can become a song of love for God, for humanity, with and for Creation, and find their fullness in holiness.”

Season of Creation Events and Opportunities at a Glance

(11:15am, all following 9:30am Mass in Teresa of Calcutta Hall)

Sunday September 8th - Fr. Daniel Griffith: Catholic Foundations of Caring for Creation

Sunday, September 15th - Dr. Joe Fargione: Climate Change 101

Sunday September 22nd - Greg Stanley: Reducing Your Carbon Footprint

Terra Divina - (outdoor contemplative prayer opportunity based on the Benedictine practice of Lectio Divina). Fridays at 5:00pm and Saturdays at 9:00am, starting on September 6th and going through September 21.

Climate Action Community Meeting - Friday, October 4th at 5:30pm in Calcutta Hall. All are invited to discuss the forthcoming Basilica Climate Action Plan. Please come!

Basilica's FEAST of St. Francis Community Dinner and Celebration - Friday, October 4th at 6:30pm in Calcutta Hall. Immediately following the above meeting, join us for a locally-sourced, organic, sustainable meal to celebrate! Suggested registration and donation of \$10 for dinner. All are welcome!

Season of Creation Events and Opportunities In Detail

(11:15am, all following 9:30am Mass in Teresa of Calcutta Hall)

Three - Part Speaker Series

Sunday September 8th - Fr. Daniel Griffith: Faith Foundations of Caring for Creation

Fr. Daniel Griffith was named pastor and rector of The Basilica of Saint Mary effective July 1, 2022. He was ordained in 2002 and has served in a variety of assignments in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis since ordination including pastor at Our Lady of Lourdes for 10 years and as the archdiocesan delegate for safe environment in 2013 and 2014.

Fr. Griffith joined the University of St. Thomas School of Law faculty in 2011 and currently serves as the Wenger Family Faculty Fellow of Law. At St. Thomas Law, Griffith teaches courses in Catholic Thought, Law, and Policy, Jurisprudence, and Restorative Justice, Law, and Healing. Fr. Griffith is the founding director of the Initiative on Restorative Justice and Healing (IRJH) which launched in fall of 2021. Rooted in the Catholic intellectual tradition, IRJH seeks to respond to harm that occurs from leadership and institutional failures, racial injustice, and polarization in a way that promotes accountability and healing.

For more information on this lecture, click [here](#).

Sunday, September 15th - Dr. Joe Fargione: Climate Change 101 - Joe Fargione, a parishioner of The Basilica, is Science Director for The Nature Conservancy's North America Region. Joe's research reveals nature's hidden benefits to people, including how nature can help mitigate climate change. Prior to joining The Nature Conservancy, Joe received a bachelor's degree from Hampshire College, a PhD in Ecology from the University of Minnesota, and held faculty positions at the University of New Mexico and Purdue University. Joe's dozens of scientific publications have been cited over twenty-three thousand times and have led to congressional testimony and national media coverage, including by NBC Nightly News, Time Magazine, The New York Times, and The Onion, among others. Joe is a native of Minneapolis, MN where he resides with his wife and family.

For more information on this lecture, click [here](#).

Sunday, September 15th - Dr. Joe Fargione: Climate Change 101 - Greg Stanley is an environmental reporter for the Star Tribune and a parishioner at The Basilica of Saint Mary. Stanley is a native of Milwaukee and loves the outdoors. He graduated from St. Norbert College with a degree in English. He has previously covered water issues, development and politics in Florida's Everglades and in northern Illinois.

For more information on this lecture, click [here](#).

Basilica Climate Action Community Meeting

Friday, October 4th from 5:30pm to 6:30pm, Teresa of Calcutta Hall at The Basilica

In his papal encyclical published in 2015, *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis shared a vision for our Common Home - the Earth - wherein Catholics and people of faith care for Creation and in so doing, care for one another. One of the significant themes of the encyclical is how aspects of our cultural values have led to climate change, what he calls “one of the principal challenges facing humanity in our day.” (*Laudato Si'*, I.25) The Pope suggests that the Climate is a common good, “belonging to all and meant for all” (*Laudato Si'*, I.23), yet there already are and will continue to be disproportionate impacts on people living in developing countries. He implores Catholics to examine our own habits and practices as individuals and as members of institutions, and reflect on how our practices contribute to the forces that contribute to the impacts of climate change.

In response to the Pope’s call to action, The Basilica of Saint Mary has embarked on a process to develop a Climate Action Plan. One of the most significant ways to reduce an institution’s contribution to climate change is to address our energy needs and expenditures. Accordingly, The Basilica secured the services of [Enerchange](#) - a Minnesota-based non-profit organization that conducts energy audits of institutions like churches - to conduct an energy audit of The Basilica’s footprint (e.g., the sanctuary, rectory, school).

On Friday, October 4th at 5:30PM in Teresa of Calcutta Hall, the Creation Justice Committee (CJC) and Basilica staff will present the results of the Enerchange audit. Through facilitated discussions and table-top exercises, Basilica community members will be invited to share their creative suggestions for ways we can more fully integrate the Pope’s vision for our Common Home into The Basilica’s institutional practices and operations.

To register for the Community meeting, click [here](#).

Stay after the meeting to join in prayer and celebration of ***Creation at the FEAST of Saint Francis Community Dinner and Celebration!*** (See below for more information!)

The Feast of Saint Francis Community Dinner and Celebration

Friday, October 4th from 6:30pm to 8:30pm, Teresa of Calcutta Hall at The Basilica

After the Climate Action Community Meeting (see above), Basilica staff and the Creation Justice Committee (CJC) are hosting the FEAST of Saint Francis Community Dinner and Celebration!

The evening will start out with a community prayer honoring Saint Francis of Assisi and Creation, a delicious, sustainable, organic and locally-grown meatless meal will be served. Heather Klein, lead chef and creator of [Root to Rise Kitchen](#) - a woman-owned, plant-based catering company, has prepared a menu that highlights Saint Francis's Italian heritage and the bounty of her company's own harvest. We encourage a suggested donation of \$10 per dinner guest.

At the end of the evening, Basilica staff and the CJC will be awarding The Basilica's first annual Green Halo Awards which recognize an individual and a Basilica-affiliated group that exemplify and uphold our Catholic tradition of ecological stewardship and care for Creation. Awardees were chosen from nominations submitted in late August through early September.

Congratulations to our 2024 Green Halo Award Winners!

To register for the dinner, please click [here](#).



Terra Divina: Listening to God Through Creation

Fridays at 5:00pm; Saturdays at 9:00am, locations below.

Developed by The Basilica Creation Justice Committee (CJC) and modeled after Lectio Divina, Terra Divina is a nature-based opportunity for individuals to practice listening to God through Creation in a natural setting.

Small groups of individuals (no more than ten) will convene in a natural setting (e.g., Theodore Wirth Park) to follow the traditional order of Lectio Divina. Ecologically-focused readings are intentionally chosen from traditional scripture (i.e., Old and New Testaments) and the writings of Catholic saints, prophets, and theologians - both historic and contemporary. Participants will be encouraged to meditate and reflect on the reading while opening themselves to 'listening' to God through the surrounding landscape.

At the end of each 'formal' session - which lasts one hour - CJC members will remain to offer an informal 'office hour' to share information and answer questions about the surrounding landscape and ecosystem.

Terra Divina participants are encouraged to wear comfortable walking/hiking shoes, and all are welcome to bring water. Each session will involve a short, mostly level, walk/hike from the parking area to the gathering site. In the case of inclement weather, participants will be notified of a cancellation 24 hours in advance, whenever possible. That said, Fall weather can be less than predictable in our area, so participants are encouraged to bring a light rain jacket in the event of a potential unpredicted rain shower.

Locations and Registration links for each session:

Friday, September 6 at 5:00pm

Location: Hidden Falls Regional Park in St Paul*

Please gather at the picnic shelter located near the Hidden Fall Regional Park North Gate entrance (off of Mississippi River Blvd near Magoffin Ave). This site is handicap accessible.

Parking: Open lot near the picnic shelter.

Contact: Gregory Harris and Rachel Holmes

[Registration Link](#)

Saturday, September 7 at 9:00am

Location: Hidden Falls Regional Park in St Paul*

Please gather at the picnic shelter located near the Hidden Fall Regional Park North Gate entrance (off of Mississippi River Blvd near Magoffin Ave). This site is handicap accessible.

Parking: Open lot near the picnic shelter.

Contact: Gregory Harris and Rachel Holmes

[Registration Link](#)

Friday, September 13 at 5:00pm

Location: Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden in Theodore Wirth Park in Minneapolis

Please gather at the gated entrance to the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden. To get there, turn onto Butler Garden drive (one-way) off of Theodore Wirth Parkway. At the top of the hill, there is a small parking lot and the garden gate is just a few steps in from the lot.

Parking: Parking lot just outside of Garden entrance. Parallel parking is also permitted on Butler Garden Drive. Please use caution when parking/walking to the location.

Contact: Gregory Harris and Rachel Holmes

[Registration Link](#)

Saturday, September 14 at 9:00am

Location: Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden in Theodore Wirth Park in Minneapolis

Please gather at the gated entrance to the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden. To get there, turn onto Butler Garden drive (one-way) off of Theodore Wirth Parkway. At the top of the hill, there is a small parking lot and the garden gate is just a few steps in from the lot.

Parking: Parking lot just outside of Garden entrance. Parallel parking is also permitted on Butler Garden Drive. Please use caution when parking/walking to the location.

Contact: Gregory Harris and Rachel Holmes

[Registration Link](#)

Friday, September 20 at 5:00pm

Location: TBD**

[Registration Link](#)

Saturday, September 21 at 9:00am

Location: TBD**

[Registration Link](#)

* Accessible for individuals with mobility issues.

** Either Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden in Minneapolis or Hidden Falls Park in St. Paul.

Volunteer Opportunities in the Community

September 1st - October 4th

Put your faith into action for our Common Home!

In the Twin Cities, we are blessed to have access to myriad educational and action opportunities hosted by local, national, and global organizations committed to working toward a brighter future for the planet. In this calendar of both in-person and virtual events and activities, we include several offerings hosted by The Basilica (in boldface type) and others during the Season of Creation. Click on the links below for more information and/or to register.

DATE /TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	MORE INFO
Season of Creation: Sep 1 – Oct 4	Sunday Masses Every weekend! 😊	The Basilica of Saint Mary 1600 Hennepin Ave. Minneapolis 55403	World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation link here “Season of Creation” begins! See how The Basilica is celebrating: link here Hosted by: Basilica of Saint Mary
Sep 1 - Oct 31	Minneapolis Farmers Market	312 East Lyndale Ave. N, Minneapolis	Wednesday – Friday 7:00am – 1:00 pm Saturday – Sunday 6:00am – 1:00pm link here Hosted by: Central Minnesota Vegetable Growers Association
Sep 6 <u>7:00am</u> – 7:30 am	Meditation at Loring Park	Loring Park, Garden of the Seasons 1382 Willow St. Minneapolis 55403	link here Every Friday morning Hosted by: Friends of Loring Park
Sep 6 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Terra Divina	Hidden Falls Regional Park 1313 Hidden Falls Dr, St Paul, MN 55116	Registration and more info: link here Hosted by: Basilica of Saint Mary

<p>Sept 7 9:00 – 10:00 am</p>	<p>Terra Divina</p>	<p>Hidden Falls Regional Park 1313 Hidden Falls Dr, St Paul, MN 55116</p>	<p>Registration and more info: https://mary.org/event/terra-divina-saturdays-in-september/2024-09-07/ Hosted by : Basilica of Saint Mary</p>
<p>Sep 7 8:00 am – 1:00 pm</p>	<p>Mill City Farmers Market</p>	<p>750 S. 2nd St., Minneapolis, MN</p>	<p>https://www.mplsdowntown.com/event/mill-city-farmers-market-8/2024-09-07/ Every Saturday Hosted by: Mill City Farmers Market</p>
<p>Sep 7 10:00am – 4:00 pm</p>	<p>Monarch Festival – Festival de la Monarca</p>	<p>Lake Nokomis Park 49th Street and Woodlawn Blvd.</p>	<p>Includes Kids Costume Parade at 11:55 am https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/activities-events/events/minneapolis_monarch_festival/ Hosted by: Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) and Monarch Joint Venture. Festival partners include the Mexican Consulate and the United States Forest Service.</p>
<p>Sep 8 11:15 am – 12:00 pm (after 9:30 am Mass)</p>	<p><i>SoC Speaker Series</i> Fr. Daniel Griffith: Catholic Foundations of Caring for Creation</p>	<p>The Basilica of Saint Mary, Teresa of Calcutta Hall</p>	<p>Registration and more info: https://mary.org/event/faith-foundations-of-our-care-for-creation/ Hosted by: Basilica of Saint Mary</p>
<p>Sep 10 TBD</p>	<p><i>Webinar (TBC)</i> Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty</p>	<p>Virtual</p>	<p>More info: https://laudatosimovement.org/news/save-the-dates-of-the-season-of-creation-2024-events/ A conversation on the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty with high-level speakers from the religious and political spheres. Hosted by: Laudato Si' Movement-Catholics for Our Common Home</p>
<p>Sep 13</p>	<p>Terra Divina</p>	<p>TBD</p>	<p>Registration and more info:</p>

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm			https://mary.org/event/terra-divina-fridays-in-september/2024-09-06/ Hosted by: Basilica of Saint Mary
Sep 14 9:00 – 10:00 am	Terra Divina	TBD	Registration and more info: https://mary.org/event/terra-divina-saturday-days-in-september/2024-09-07/ Hosted by : Basilica of Saint Mary
Sep 14 8:00 am – 12:00 pm	Vadnais Heights Tree Distribution	661 County Rd F E, St. Paul, MN 55127	Registration: https://givebutter.com/0Ua4RB Hosted by: Tree Trust
Sep 14 9:00 am - 11:00 am	Garden Volunteering at Loring Park	Loring Park Garden of the Seasons 1382 Willow St. Minneapolis 55403	Tools, gloves, and friends are provided! Registration: https://www.mplsdowntown.com/event/garden-volunteering-at-loring-park/2024-09-14/ Hosted by: Friends of Loring Park
Sep 14 9:00 am	Loppet Field Day; Fun Run & Field Day	Theo Wirth Park 1221 Theodore Wirth Parkway Minneapolis, 55422	Registration: https://runsignup.com/Race/MN/Minneapolis/TrailLoppet Hosted by: Loppet Foundation
Sep 14 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Fix-It Clinic	Leech Lake Twin Cities Office 2438 27th Avenue South, Minneapolis, 55406	Fix-It Clinics offer free, guided assistance from volunteers with repair skills to disassemble, troubleshoot, and (hopefully) fix small household appliances, clothing, electronics, mobile devices and more. Fix-It Clinics teach valuable troubleshooting and basic repair skills, build community connections and reduce the number of repairable items that are thrown in the trash. Last items accepted at 3:30 p.m. Events are first come, first served. No pre-registration required. https://www.hennepin.us/residents/recycling-hazardous-waste/fix-it-clinics Hosted by: Hennepin County
Sep 15 8:30 am	Utepils Trail Loppet	Theo Wirth Park	Registration and info: https://runsignup.com/Race/MN/Minneapolis/TrailLoppet

	The Urban Trail Run and Festival	1221 Theodore Wirth Parkway Minneapolis, 55422	Hosted by: Loppet Foundation
Sep 15 11:15 am – 12:00 pm (after 9:30 am Mass)	SoC Speakers Series Dr. Joe Fargione: Climate Change 101	The Basilica of Saint Mary, Teresa of Calcutta Hall	Registration and info: https://mary.org/event/the-science-of-climate-change/ Hosted by: Basilica of Saint Mary
Sep 18 8:00 - 10:00 pm	Star Gazing: Mike Lynch Star Watch Program	Loring Park 1382 Willow St. Minneapolis 55403	Registration required. Fee of \$12 for residents, \$18 for non-residents. For more information call 612-230-6400 or https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/parks-destinations/parks-lakes/loring_park/ Hosted by: Mike Lynch Star Watch Program www.lynchandthestars.com
Sep 20 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Terra Divina	TBD	Registration and more info: https://mary.org/event/terra-divina-fridays-in-september/2024-09-06/ Hosted by: Basilica of Saint Mary
Sept 21 9:00 – 10:00 am	Terra Divina	TBD	Registration and more info: https://mary.org/event/terra-divina-saturday-in-september/2024-09-07/ Hosted by : Basilica of Saint Mary
Sep 22 11:15 am – 12:00 pm (after 9:30 am Mass)	SoC Speakers Series Greg Stanley: Reducing Your Carbon Footprint	The Basilica of Saint Mary, Teresa of Calcutta Hall	Registration and info: https://mary.org/event/reducing-your-carbon-footprint/ Hosted by: Basilica of Saint Mary
Sep 23 2:00pm – 4:00 pm	Public Meeting: Pig's Eye Dump Task Force Meeting	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency St. Paul office 520 Lafayette Rd	Open to the public: https://www.pca.state.mn.us/events-and-meetings/pigs-eye-dump-task-force-meeting-2024-09-23 Hosted by: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

		St. Paul 55155	
Sep 28 10:00 am – 1:00 pm	Bassett Creek Park Tree Planting	5609 32 nd Ave. N, Crystal, MN 55422	Registration and info: https://givebutter.com/GtkKu9 Hosted by: Tree Trust
Sep 30 5:00 – 7:00 pm	St. Louis Park Tree Distribution	7305 Oxford St. SLP	Registration and info: https://givebutter.com/IGfKR2 Hosted by: Tree Trust
Sep 30 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm CT	<i>Webinar</i> Mining, Faith, and the Future of Green Technology	Virtual	Registration and info: https://interfaithpowerandlight.org/events/ Hosted by: Western State Affiliates of Interfaith Power and Light
Oct 4 10:00 am – 1:00 pm	Edina Tree Unload	4300 W. 66 th St., Edina, MN 55435	Registration and info: https://givebutter.com/BR0Ey0 500 trees to unload! Hosted by: Tree Trust
Oct 4 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm	Basilica Climate Action Community Meeting	The Basilica of Saint Mary, Teresa of Calcutta Hall	Registration and info: https://mary.org/event/basilica-climate-action-community-meeting/ All are welcome! Hosted by: Basilica of Saint Mary
Oct 4 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm	The FEAST of St Francis: Community Dinner and Celebration	The Basilica of Saint Mary, Teresa of Calcutta Hall	Registration: Suggested donation of \$10 per person. https://mary.org/event/the-feast-of-st-francis-community-dinner-and-celebration/ Celebrate the closing of the “Season of Creation!” Hosted by: Basilica of Saint Mary



Green Tips and Meatless Recipes

Green Tips

During the Season of Creation, consider incorporating new practices into your daily routine to help reduce your individual impact on nature's precious resources. Consider adopting one new practice each of the five weeks during the Season.

General

1. Calculate your carbon footprint and find ways to reduce it by at least 10% in the next year.
2. Stop using disposable plastic bottles, bags, straws, cutlery, cups and avoid single-use plastic.
3. Walk, cycle, carpool, or use public transport.
4. Plant pollinator-friendly flowers and spread wildflower seeds.
5. Switch to renewable energy.
6. Go meatless on Monday and/or Fridays (at least).
7. Reuse, recycle, reduce your consumption of resources, including water.
8. Contact your elected officials, and encourage them to support legislation that addresses climate change.
9. Consider platforms and plans prioritizing measures to reduce the impacts of climate change when voting.
10. Fly less and offset travel when possible.
11. Fall is a great time to plant trees in our area - plant a tree. If you live in a space that is not the right place for a tree, volunteer with a tree-planting organization.
12. Wash clothes in cold water and hang them to dry.
13. Install a programmable thermostat.
14. Replace appliances with Energy Star-rated ones.
15. Replace incandescent and compact fluorescent lights (CFLs)* with LED lights.
16. Reduce my food waste.
17. Compost leaves and food waste.
18. Start conversations about climate change with family and friends.
19. Pray for our common home and all Earth protectors.
20. Participate in national, international, local, church, community, family or individual events that lift up care for Creation.

Adapted from the Catholic Climate Covenant website which features additional resources, available [here](#).

*Note about recycling CFLs: The closest recycling facility that accepts CFLs is the South Hennepin Recycling and Problem Waste Drop-Off Center, 1400 West 96th Street, Bloomington, MN 55431. They can also be brought to all Home Depot and Menard service centers.

Food

1. Whenever possible buy food grown and processed closer to home. Transportation of food guzzles energy. Shop at a farmers market.
2. If buying meat or dairy, choose animal products that have not been treated cruelly or grown in Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations.
3. Eat real food. Hint: shop the perimeter of the store. Most foods in the middle aisles of super markets are pre-processed and packaged.
4. To minimize landfill waste, support manufacturers who use minimal packaging. Buying in bulk is a great way to reduce unnecessary waste and packaging.
5. Drink Fair Trade coffee/tea. Commit to giving farmers a fair price for their product and work.

Adapted from the Passionist Earth and Spirit Center based in Kentucky in 2010. Visit their website: www.earthandspiritcenter.org

Home Energy

1. Stop air leaks that allow heated air to escape: Seal or cover switch plates, gaskets, windows, and doors. Use plastic window kits. Keep your fireplace damper closed when not in use. Seal attic bypasses. Insulate your attic.
2. Buy a programmable thermostat and set 2 degrees cooler when awake and 8 degrees cooler when asleep or away.
3. Get a tune up for your furnace every fall.
4. When it's time to replace your old furnace or boiler, consider switching to an efficient Energy Star appliance.

Adapted from the Minnesota Center for Energy and Environment's Minnesota Energy Challenge: <http://www.mnenergychallenge.org/>

Meatless Recipes

Please enjoy these recipes contributed by CJC Member San O'Brien. During the season of Creation, we invite you to reflect on, and give thanks for, the gifts of God's Creation that nourish our bodies. Consider incorporating a special Creation-focused prayer before meals during the Season of Creation.

["Beyond Burger" patties](#) (serves 2)

[Cheesy Brown Rice & Lentil Casserole](#) (serves 6)

[Couscous-Stuffed Poblano Peppers](#) (serves 2)

[Easy Burrito Bowl](#) (serves 4)

[Lentil Soup](#) (serves 8)

[Miso Mushroom & Brown Rice Bowls](#) (serves 2)

[Pesto Chickpea Grain Bowls](#) (serves 2)

[Pumpkin \(or Squash\) Sage Goat Cheese Lasagna](#) (serves 6)

[Summer Vegetable Gnocchi](#) (serves 2)

[Vegan pancakes](#) (serves 2)

[Vegetarian Green Chili](#) (serves 4)

[Vegetarian Pad Thai](#) (serves 4)



Prayers

Season of Creation Prayer

This prayer was offered in the 2024 Season of Creation Celebration Guide, accessible [here](#).

Triune God, Creator of all, We praise you for your goodness, visible in all the diversity that you have created, making us a cosmic family living in a common home. Through the Earth you created, we experience love and nourishment, home and protection.

We confess that we do not relate to the Earth as a Mothering gift from you, our Creator. Our selfishness, greed, neglect, and abuse have caused the climate crisis, loss of biodiversity, human suffering as well as the suffering of all our fellow creatures. We confess that we have failed to listen to the groans of the Earth, the groans of all creatures, and the groans of the Spirit of hope and justice that lives within us.

May your Creator Spirit help us in our weakness, so that we may know the redeeming power of Christ and the hope found in him. May the groans of the Spirit birth in us a willingness to serve you faithfully, so that we may hear and heal Creation, to hope and act together with her, so that the firstfruits of hope may blossom.

Loving and Creator God, we pray that you will make us sensitive to these groans and enable us to have the same compassion as that of Jesus, the redeeming Lord. Grant us a fresh vision of our relationship with Earth, and with one another, as creatures that are made in your image.

In the name of the one who came to proclaim the good news to all Creation, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Canticle of St. Francis of Assisi

This traditional prayer is available on the Laudato Si website, available [here](#).

In the name of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen

Most High, all-powerful, good Lord,
Yours are the praises, the glory,
and the honour and all blessing.
To You alone, Most High, do they belong
and no human is worthy to mention Your name.

Praised be you, my Lord,
with all Your creatures,
especially Sir Brother Sun,
who is the day,
and through whom You give us light.
And he is beautiful
and radiant with great splendour;
and bears a likeness of You, Most High one.

Praised be You, my Lord,
through Sister Moon and the stars,
in heaven You formed them
clear and precious and beautiful.
Praised be You, my Lord,
through Brother Wind,
and through the air, cloudy and serene,
and every kind of weather
through which you give sustance to your creatures.
Praised be You, my Lord,
through Sister water,
who is very useful and humble
and precious and chaste.
Praised be You, my Lord,
through Brother fire,
through whom You light the night,
and he is beautiful and playful
and robust and strong.

Praised be You, my Lord,
through our Sister Mother Earth,
who sustains and governs us,
and who produces various fruit
with coloured flowers and herbs.

Praised be You, my Lord,
through those who give pardon for Your love,
and bear infirmity and tribulation.
Blessed those who endure in peace,
for by You, Most High, shall they be crowned.

Praised be You, my Lord,
through our Sister Bodily Death,
from whom no one living can escape.
Woe to those who die in mortal sin.
Blessed are those whom death
will find in Your most holy will,
for the second death shall do them no harm.

Praise and bless my Lord and give Him thanks
and serve Him with great humility.

Novena to St. Francis

The [Catholic Agency for Overseas Development](#) has created the Novena to St. Francis which features nine brief video prayers/reflections on the Amazon, based on St. Francis's Canticle of the Sun. Consider this practice during the Season of Creation, and beyond. Find the Novena by clicking [here](#).

Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Chaplet

Click [here](#) for a guided seven-day reflection honoring Saint Kateri, the patroness of the environment, available on the Catholic Climate Covenant website. This chaplet was created by the Care for Creation Team serving the Archdiocese of Minneapolis and St. Paul.

Meditation on Creation

This meditation was created by the Catholic Climate Covenant, available [here](#).

Find a comfortable position/place for this meditation.

Breath: Take three deep breaths, filling your lungs thoroughly, holding your breath momentarily and exhaling through your mouth.

Heart: Quiet your inner self – embracing the gift of life with each breath and heartbeat.

Let yourself reflect on these words of St. Hildegard of Bingen: “Human beings are the thinking heart, called to be co-creators with God in shaping the world.” Express your gratitude for the wonders of Creation’s rhythm of interconnection.

Reflect: How do you feel that this most beautiful place, Earth, is threatened by destruction due to our own actions and neglect? Ponder the call to be co-creators and not dominators and oppressors of this web of life for now and future generations.

Resolution: Come in touch with the passion/energy you feel to protect this most beautiful place, Earth. In what way(s) might you help sustain Earth's life?

(Adapted and used with permission by the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. Written by Sister Barbara Sheehan and Providence Associate Gene Majewski.)

Pray: God of all Creation, your goodness and glory shine forth through everything you have made. Through the light of faith, help us to see this world, our common home, not as a resource to dominate and exploit, but as a gift to be cherished by all generations. Prompted by your Spirit, we ask this in the name of Jesus, through whom all Creation was made. Amen.

(Prayer from Catholic Charities)

Table Grace before Meals

This prayer and many others, can be found in Table Grace in a World Struggling with Climate Change, created by World Vision and available on the Catholic Climate Covenant website. Click [here](#) for access.

We pause to give You thanks, God, because we know that food is a gift. Help us never to take it for granted, nor to disregard the earth from which it comes. Help this pause of gratitude produce uninterrupted lives that bring You praise and provide care for Your earth. Amen.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is Creation capitalized?

We capitalize the word 'Creation' because the term connotes all living things created by God. The [Season of Creation](#) global movement [2024 Celebration Guide](#) states that Creation "is not an object that has been created for human use, but rather a subject that we are called to relate to and collaborate with as fellow creatures. By capitalizing Creation, we refer to both the created order and the mystery of God's continuing act of Creation. We acknowledge the whole created order, or the whole cosmos, including all living and non-living parts of God's Creation, showing our theological respect, reverence, accountability, and interdependence with the natural world."

Does it cost anything to participate in Season of Creation activities and events?

No. Events hosted by The Basilica are free of charge. We are, however, requesting a suggested donation of \$10 for the FEAST of Saint Francis Dinner and Celebration. Please note that events and activities listed on our Community Volunteer Opportunities list may not all be free of charge, so we suggest visiting the links provided to confirm.

Is registration required for Season of Creation activities and events?

While we will not turn anyone away from an event hosted by The Basilica, we would greatly appreciate advance registration. This helps us ensure we have adequate supplies and room for activity and event participants.

Do I have to be a member of The Basilica, or even Catholic, to attend these events?

No! All are very welcome to attend our events. While events and activities hosted by The Basilica will be Catholic-focused, people of all faith beliefs and persuasions are invited to participate in this joyful Season.

Do I have to be an expert hiker to participate in Terra Divina?

No! Although there is a short hike or walk into the our gathering spot from the parking area, participants need not be experienced hikers to participate.

Additional Resources

There are many organizations and institutions that provide people of faith the tools and resources needed to fulfill our faith commitment as stewards of Creation. We encourage you to check out some of these sites to learn more about what the Catholic Church and our allies are doing to help restore our Common Home.

Catholic Climate Covenant <http://catholicclimatecovenant.org/>

St. Kateri Conservation Center www.kateri.org

US Conference of Catholic Bishops Environment <https://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/environment/index.cfm>

Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light <http://mnipl.org/>

Will Steger Foundation <http://www.willstegerfoundation.org/>

350 Cool Planet <http://www.coolplanetmn.org/>

Fresh Energy <http://fresh-energy.org/>

Acknowledgements

The Creation Justice Committee wishes to thank the following individuals and groups for their hard work in supporting the celebration of The Basilica's first Season of Creation:

Pastor and Rector at The Basilica, **Fr. Daniel Griffith**

Director of Ministries at The Basilica, **Dr. Johan van Parys**

Director of Christian Life at The Basilica, **Janice Andersen**

Christian Life Administrative Assistant at The Basilica, **Jill Severtson**

Direction of Communications and Marketing at The Basilica, **Mae Desaire**

The Basilica Ministry Department of Liturgy and Sacred Arts

The Basilica Facilities Staff, especially **Audra Johnson** and **Blake McDougall**

The Basilica Facilities Committee

Trustee of The Basilica, **Mr. Tom Paul**

Enerchange

Owner of Root to Rise Kitchen, **Heather Klein**

And our generous Season of Creation donors and supporters.