

# LAUDATO SI' IN ACTION!

A newsletter from Care for Creation, a  
ministry of the Diocese of San Jose



May 2026

## Care for Creation Mission Statement

We educate and motivate the Catholics of our diocese, and all our neighbors, of our moral responsibility to take immediate action to address the “social and environmental crisis” of creation.

We are here to help you with ideas, connections to other organizations, tips, how to start a Care for Creation Team, and to move forward with our Pastoral Plan, to “Care for the poor and vulnerable and care for the earth as God’s sacred creation to our common home.” Contact us at:  
[michelle.nealon@dsj.org](mailto:michelle.nealon@dsj.org)



## May Sustainability Tips

Look to create a Care for Creation corner in your weekly parish bulletin. This is an easy way to provide your congregation with tips on how to make a difference one step at a time. We will provide monthly tips that are seasonal and pertain to everyday life.

### Electrify Your Life Fair May 9th

([bit.ly/ElectrifyYourLifeFair](https://bit.ly/ElectrifyYourLifeFair)): The Electrify Your Life Fair is for anyone who wants to save money and cut down on pollution at home and in the community. Join to learn how

## In This Issue

- **Care for Creation Mission Statement**  
Let us know how we can support you!
- **Share the News!**  
Send us information and stories of events and ongoing projects in your parish
- **May Sustainability Tips**  
Each month we will give you sustainable tips, pick and choose what you would like for your community’s Care for Creation blurb in your bulletin.
- **Suggested Sustainable Activities for Your Parish**  
Ways to put Laudato Si’ into Action in your parish.
- **Celebrate Laudato Si’ Week**  
The theme this year is From Hope to Action. Find ways to celebrate in your community.
- **Upcoming Events to Note**  
Make note of these global environmental events.
- **Parish Corner**  
Find out what parishes in the Diocese are up to. Let us know what actions you are engaged in.

## Share Your News

This newsletter is sponsored by the Care for Creation Ministry of the San Jose Diocese. Its purpose is to share information, accomplishments, hopes, challenges, encouragement, prayer, resources and inspiration between parishes.

We hope to produce monthly, and anyone can **submit items** by the third Friday of each month to [michelle.nealon@dsj.org](mailto:michelle.nealon@dsj.org)

Appropriate Items:

- Notices of upcoming events
- Reports on previous events (pictures are welcomed if you have consent of the people in the photo).

to switch from gas cars and home appliances to clean, electric options.

**Ecotherapy:** Spring is a great time to enjoy the green hills and native wildflowers. Whether alone or with family or friends, take some time for a leisurely walk in a park or along a waterfront and appreciate the great beauty God has given us in all aspects of creation. See

<https://guides.openspacetrust.org/wildflowers> and <https://www.openspace.org/where-to-go/nature/wildflowers>.

**Cleaning:** To help keep waterways clean and safe from pollutants, take steps such as using biodegradable detergents at home (such as Clean People and Earth Breeze laundry detergent sheets) and eliminating the use of disposable plastic whenever possible. Also, be aware that synthetic pesticides and herbicides can harm birds and insects that benefit agriculture. Use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) to manage pests. IPM focuses on using the least harsh method possible. Search for “UC IPM for home landscapes” for more information. If you decide to purchase fertilizers or pesticides choose more environmentally friendly ones from Ecosmart, Earthworks for Home, Sunday, Purely Organic, or Down to Earth).

**Mindful Irrigation:** As we rely on our irrigation systems to keep our plants alive as we enter summer, regularly check your irrigation systems for leaks. Add a layer of mulch to retain the water, reduce your watering needs, and help keep the weeds down. Consider capturing graywater in your shower or kitchen sink to irrigate your nonedible plants

## Suggested Sustainable Activities for Your Parish

- Introduce your parish to the important teachings of Laudato Si', Pope Francis encyclical. Helpful Study Guide link: <https://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/environment/upload/laudato-si-discussion-guide.pdf>
- Invite your local waste company to come and speak to your parishioners about the importance of recycling correctly and reducing the landfill.
- Looking for energy saving ideas for your church and parishioners at home? Invite a representative from Energy Coalition to come and speak.

- Descriptions of new and ongoing projects.
- Notice of grant possibilities, requests for knowledge, help, etc.
- Recommendations for resources, readings, speakers, links, prayers, etc., on creation care and fulfilling the Pastoral Plan of “Care for the poor and vulnerable and care for the earth as God’s sacred creation to our common home.”

## Laudato Si' Week (May 17-24)

**This year’s Laudato Si’ Week** invites us to move *from hope to action*. Hope is not passive; it is lived and shared through daily choices, community life, prayer, and concrete acts of care. This year reminds us that ecological conversion grows step by step—through relationships restored, creation protected, and communities strengthened. The next chapter of *Laudato Si’* begins with us, wherever we are.

The Laudato Si’ Week website has many resources: 10 Concrete Actions You Can take, Planning Guide, Reflection Tools and more. Think about registering your action!

**Links to Laudato Si’ Week:** <https://laudatosiweek.org/>

**Resource materials:** <https://laudatosiweek.org/resources/>

**Laudato Si’ Movement:**

<https://laudatosimovement.org/news/laudato-si-movement-2026-from-hope-to-action/>

### A Sample Bulletin Announcement:

The 24<sup>th</sup> May will be the 11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Pope Francis’ encyclical, Laudato Si. It is a call to the people of the world for action to address the crisis facing the creation around us and the severe impact it has on the most vulnerable. It begins as follows:

*“LAUDATO SI’, mi’ Signore” – “Praise be to you, my Lord”. In the words our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us. “Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with colored flowers and herbs”.*

Care of Creation is a long-standing tenet of the Catholic Church. The church in celebration of this anniversary designates 17<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> May 2026 as Laudato Si Week. The theme this year is “From Hope to Action”. There is a desire to keep this call “alive” by our taking actions that promote our connection to and stewardship of the nature around us, appreciating it, as St. Francis did, as God’s presence, worthy of our reverent care. There is much that can be done individually and through our communities.

- Reflect on ways to reduce the use of plastic plates, cups and silverware at parish social events – shift to compostable.



## Upcoming Dates to Note

- 2026, We celebrate the 800<sup>th</sup> Jubilee of St. Francis of Assisi
- April 28 First Governmental Summit to “End Fossil Fuels,” Santa Marta, Colombia
- May 16, National River Cleanup Day; **Volunteer in Santa Clara County at [www.cleancreek.org](http://www.cleancreek.org)**
- May 17, Laudato Si’ Week, theme: From Hope to Action
- September 1–October 4: Season of Creation
- September 1, World Day of Prayer for Creation
- September 19, Coastal Cleanup Day
- October 4, Feast of St. Francis of Assisi

## Coming Soon!

### Season of Creation 2026

This year’s theme is **Living Water; Immersion in Living Water, Ezekiel 47:9, 12**

[https://seasonofcreation.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/SOC\\_Symbol2026\\_Living-Water.png](https://seasonofcreation.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/SOC_Symbol2026_Living-Water.png)



## Parish News and Actions

### St. Nicholas/ St. William Parish:

### ST. WILLIAM CHURCH

# E-WASTE COLLECTION EVENT

SATURDAY  
MAY 2, 2026  
10AM - 1 PM

ACCEPTED	NOT ACCEPTED
Televisions Computers Servers Monitors Laptops Printers Phones Stereos Cell Phones Wire/Cable	Toys Bulbs Alkaline Batteries Toner Cartridges Hair Dryers Household Items Microwave Ovens Fans/Heaters Other Appliances

**611 S. El Monte Avenue  
Los Altos, CA 94022**

Contact: [evelyn@greenmouse.com](mailto:evelyn@greenmouse.com) or [lidia.fiandello@dsj.org](mailto:lidia.fiandello@dsj.org)

Sponsored by:

### St. Simon Parish

Looking for an idea to spread environmental information? Perhaps an environmental bulletin board or weekly tips in your bulletin.



## Santa Teresa Church



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**SANTA TERESA CHURCH**  
JOYFULLY INVITES  
YOU TO A  
FUNDRAISING DINNER  
FOR THE CENTER FOR  
FARMWORKER FAMILIES

**SATURDAY**  
**MAY 16, 2026 AT 6:30**

**FEATURED SPEAKER DR. ANN LOPEZ, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
DR. LOPEZ AND A SPECIAL GUEST FARMWORKER WILL SHARE INSPIRING  
STORIES AND REAL EXPERIENCES FROM THE FIELDS.

**DONATION LEVELS**  
**\$25 - BRONZE | \$35 - SILVER | \$50 - GOLD**

**YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A REAL DIFFERENCE**  
**IN THE LIVES OF FARMWORKER FAMILIES.**  
TICKETS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE ON THE  
PARISH WEBSITE

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO**  
**SANTA TERESA CHURCH**



**ALL DONATIONS GO DIRECTLY TO THE CENTER FOR FARMWORKER FAMILIES.**

### Green Team Tip:

Toss it away? No Way! Bring your favorite thing to get fixed at **Repair Cafe Silicon**

**Valley:** <https://repaircafesv.org/>. If it's in good working order and you don't need it, donate it (Goodwill, Habitat, [freecycle.com](https://www.freecycle.org/)) or sell it (craigslist, Facebook market) so someone else can use it without needing to create a new thing. The Cafe has tools, materials, and volunteer experts to help you make any repairs you need on clothes, furniture, small appliances, bicycles, crockery, electronics, lamps, toys, and lots more. Their goal is to extend the life of everyday items and keep them out of the landfill.