

LAUDATO SI' IN ACTION!

A newsletter from **Care for Creation**, a
parish- based ministry



July 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



July Sustainability Tips (Living a Plastic Free Summer)

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.

Picnicking- When Picnicking Pack Smart

Snacks: Use aluminum foil, reusable wax paper,

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
- **July Sustainability Tips (Living a Plastic Free Summer)**
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.
- **Start Planning for Season of Creation (9/1-10/4/2026)**
The theme this year is **Living Water; Immersion in Living Water**, Find ways to celebrate in your community.
- **Upcoming Dates 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

Appropriate Items:

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

beeswax wraps, or silicone bags to pack food, avoiding wrappers that can break into microplastics.

- Use personal water bottles
- Use brown bags for food (not polystyrene containers)
- Wrap food (egg sandwich) in aluminum foil (100% recyclable) rather than plastic wrap - remember to rinse it before you recycle!
- Aluminum can drinks instead of plastic bottle drinks

[NOTE: Yes, aluminum foil and cans are 100% recyclable and can be recycled indefinitely without losing quality, making them one of the most sustainable packaging materials available. **They are frequently recycled in a closed-loop system, often returning to store shelves as new cans in as little as 60 days.**]

Wean yourself off single use plastics. Ninety percent of the plastic items in our daily lives are used once and then trashed: grocery bags, plastic wrap, disposable cutlery, straws, coffee-cup lids. Take note of how often you rely on these products and replace them with reusable versions. It only takes a few times of bringing your own bags to the store, silverware to the office, or a travel mug to Starbucks before it becomes a habit. See <https://www.plasticpollutioncoalition.org/> for guides.

Avoid products that contain microbeads:

Microbeads are solid, tiny pieces of plastic. They are used in personal care and cleaning products because of their exfoliant properties, bulking agents, shelf-life, etc.

You can find them in products like:

- Sunscreen
- Toothpaste
- Facial cleansers
- Body wash
- Foundation/blush

Microbeads can't get captured by most wastewater treatment systems, so they often end up in our rivers, lakes, and oceans. They cause plastic particle water pollution and harm marine life, the environment, and our health, because of their ability to absorb toxins. Some products contain plastic as ingredients (microbeads), which is the equivalent of their plastic packaging. The easiest way to avoid

- 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."

Season of Creation 2026

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

<https://seasonofcreation.org/> Click the link to sign up for resources.

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.

Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I proclaimed 1 September as a day of Prayer for Creation for the Orthodox in 1989. In fact, the Orthodox church year starts on that day with a commemoration of how God created the world. The World Council of Churches was instrumental in making the special time a season, extending the celebration from September **1 (World Day of Prayer for Creation)** until **October 4 (Feast of St. Francis of Assisi)**.

As a powerful statement to the importance of this ecumenical season of prayer and action for Creation, here are words from Pope Leo, summoning us to this special season:

"Environmental justice –implicitly proclaimed by the prophets – can no longer be regarded as an abstract concept or a distant goal. It is an urgent need that involves much more than simply protecting the environment. For it is a matter of justice – social, economic and human. For believers it is also a duty born of faith, since the universe reflects the face of Jesus Christ, in whom all things were created and redeemed." *(Taken from his Message for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation 2025)*

His Holiness Pope Leo XIV,
Bishop of Rome, Roman Catholic Church
Photo credits: Vatican Media



microbeads in your products is to switch to natural and zero waste personal care products.

Avoid synthetic clothing: Synthetic clothing is the largest source of microplastics. It accounts for 34.8% of global microplastic pollution in the ocean.

Every time you wash synthetic clothes, hundreds of microplastic are released. Once the fibers are shredded, they are discharged in sewage water. Microfibers can absorb chemicals present in the water or sewage sludge, and they can also contain chemical additives from the manufacturing phases. Once the microfibers reach the oceans, they are ingested by marine animals, causing various physical injuries and negative impacts.

To reduce the discharge of microplastics from synthetic clothing, you can:

- **Avoid buying more synthetic clothing** made of polyester, polyethylene, acrylic, or elastane.
- **Use laundry balls or a microfiber bag** in the washing machine, designed to capture the microplastics.

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>
- The first and foremost question in the spirit of Franciscan simplicity of living and poverty of possessions is, "Do I really need this product?" Be aware of personal WANTS versus NEEDS.
- Say no to single-use plastics such as straws, knives and forks, plastic-lined drink cups.
- Refuse food and drink containers that come in Styrofoam. Urge your municipality to ban them.
- Don't buy water in plastic bottles. Encourage your congregation to bring reusable water bottles.



IMMERSION IN LIVING WATER

Ezekiel 47:9, 12

Living Water

Season of Creation 2026

The global ecumenical theme is "**Living Water**," inspired by Ezekiel 47, which focuses on ecological restoration, water stewardship, and environmental healing. The Biblical text for this year is drawn from Ezekiel 47:9- 12, which portrays God's life-giving water flowing from the temple of God. The river grows deeper and deeper restoring barren land, reviving waters, and sustaining flourishing ecosystems. The vision invites human responsibility: recognizing ecological damage, embracing interconnectedness, we are called to immerse ourselves in the water, and actively safeguarding and working for the renewal of creation so that environmental healing and human well-being may flourish together.

Key details for participating in the 2026 observances include:

- **Celebration Guide:** The official [Season of Creation Celebration Guide](#) is available to download, featuring ideas for prayer services, webinars, and community advocacy. [Season of Creation]
- **Global Observance:** The World Council of Churches (WCC) and the Laudato Si' Movement are organizing ecumenical initiatives to promote water and climate justice. [World Council of Churches]
- **Begin planning Your parish's celebration now!** Next month: weekly mass intentions for the Season of Creation. Resources are available: <https://seasonofcreation.org/>





Upcoming Dates to Note

- 2026, We celebrate the 800th Jubilee of St. Francis of Assisi
- September 1–October 4: Season of Creation
- September 1, World Day of Prayer for Creation
- September 7, International Day of Clean Air
- September 19, Coastal Cleanup Day
- September 21, Zero Emissions Day
- October 4, Feast of St. Francis of Assisi
- October 6, World Habitat Day



Green Team Tip:

Donating Extra Fruits & Vegetables: For those of you who have fruit trees or extra vegetables from the trees and gardens in your yards, consider donating them to

Second Harvest of Silicon Valley: Accepts fresh food donations at two San Jose locations on weekdays (9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.) [Donate Food:](#)

- **Curtner Center:** 4000 North First St. (Closed 11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)
- **Cypress Center:** 4001 North First St.

Garden to Table Silicon Valley: A downtown urban farm that accepts local produce donations. Drop off at 1335 E. Julian St. or call (408) 998-3126 [Garden to Table Silicon Valley](#).

Santa Maria Urban Ministry: This neighborhood resource and food pantry takes fresh produce donations at 691 W. San Carlos St. Call them at (408) 292-3314 to confirm drop-off times [Santa Maria Urban Ministry](#).

Life Moves Opportunity Center
(<https://www.lifemoves.org/>),

Community Service Agency ([csacares.org](https://www.csacares.org/)),

St Anthony's (<https://www.stanthonyssf.org/services/dining-room/>), or **Food pantry in a parish near you.**

For larger backyard harvests, you can contact **Village Harvest**, which sends volunteer teams to pick excess produce (specifically fruit trees) from your property and distributes it to local charities [Support our Community Service | Village Harvest](#).



Parish Events and Actions

Santa Teresa Church

Santa Teresa Church
Grief Care Ministries

JULY IS NATIONAL BEREAVEMENT PARENTS AWARENESS MONTH

Join us for a peaceful prayer service
to honor the unique love and grief
parents carry after losing a child.

Let us surround them with
love and compassion
and a butterfly release.



Sat. July 11

11:00 Gather

11:30 AM Mass

Santa Teresa Church
794 Calero Ave, San Jose

All are welcome - for RSVP & Questions:
Church office (408) 629-7777
nancy.Hope2Heal@gmail.com
and the Mental Health Ministries team

Interested in learning more about Laudato Si'?

Join the last few zoom session.

Summer 2026 Laudato Si' Faith Journey

We will prayerfully read and discuss
Pope Francis' Encyclical
Laudato Si' on Care for Our Common Home

All are welcome

Via Zoom
Saturdays
1:00 pm- 2:15 pm Pacific Time
June 6, 13, 20, 27
July 11, 18, 25



LAUDATO SI'
MOVEMENT
Summer 2026
Laudato Si' Faith Journey

Sign up here:



<https://radiandcatholics.floofnote.com/faithjour2026>

Note: 'Care Creation-Laudato Si' Faith Journey Summer 2026' is
pre-selected so you do not need to choose a ministry.

Contact with questions: HoldName12@outlook.com

Saint Francis of Assisi Parish

Check out the Jubilee events Saint Francis of Assisi has
planned and plan a pilgrimage to the Church:

<https://sfoasj.com/jubilee>

