

SEASON OF CREATION INFO FOR GREEN CLOCK

As we once again embark on the annual [Season of Creation](#) let us renew our commitment to praying and caring for God's creation. The season starts with the World Day of Prayer for Creation on September 1 and ends with the Feast of St. Francis on October 4. As Catholics we have the opportunity to join with 2.2 billion Christians around the world in nurturing our desire to protect and sustain the beauty of the Earth so generously given to us by God.

September 1 was proclaimed as a day of prayer for creation (World Day of Prayer for Creation, or Creation Day) by Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I of the Orthodox Church in 1989. It was embraced by the other major Christian European churches in 2001 and by [Pope Francis](#) for the Roman Catholic Church in 2015. See this [link](#) for a video of Pope Francis speaking on Care of Creation in 2015.

St. John Paul II named St. Francis of Assisi the patron saint of those who promote ecology in 1979. His feast day is celebrated by many Christian denominations on October 4, the day after the anniversary of his death on October 3, 1226. The most popular tradition for recognizing his feast is to hold a Blessing of the Animals.

Catholic Resources on Care of Creation

Inspiring and equipping Catholics to care for creation and care for the poor since 2006, Catholic Climate Covenant is endorsed by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Explore their website to see what Care of Creation Teams in Catholic parishes are doing across the county. Take the opportunity to join in on their work. You will have the opportunity to sign on to the [St. Francis Pledge](#) and the [Catholic Climate Declaration](#).

[Global Catholic Climate Movement](#) was founded in 2015 based on Pope Francis' encyclical on climate change and ecology. The organization works with organizations and individuals within the Catholic Church to better care for our common home. See their website for actions they have taken across the globe and consider signing their pledge. The pledge is simple:

- Pray for and with creation
- Live more simply
- Advocate to protect our common home.

CARE OF CREATION INTERCESSIONS

From The Global Catholic Climate Movement

In the midst of our ecological crisis, we pray that people may learn to respect creation and care for it as a gift of God. *Let us pray to the Lord.*

In view of the threatening climate crisis, we pray that people may learn to respect creation and care for it as a gift of God. *Let us pray to the Lord.*

For the poor, who are the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change that they may be taken into account by those societies contributing the most to climate change. *Let us pray to the Lord.*

Believing in God's saving power and that God can make straight crooked paths we pray for action to protect and care for all creation and set our economies on new more life-giving paths. *Let us pray to the Lord.*

United by our Catholic faith and respect for all life, including the life of unborn generations, we pray that the human family takes action to transition to clean energy and keep climate change in check. *Let us pray to the Lord.*

With the shared sense of responsibility to care of God's beautiful, life-giving creation, we pray that the goals of energy transition, reduced global warming, and protection of life for all are attained. *Let us pray to the Lord.*

From the USCCB

O Lord, grant us the grace to respect and care for Your creation.
Lord, hear our prayer.

O Lord, bless all of your creatures as a sign of Your wondrous love.
Lord, hear our prayer.

O Lord, help us to end the suffering of the poor and bring healing to all of your creation.
Lord, hear our prayer.

O Lord, help us to use our technological inventiveness to undo the damage we have done to Your
creation and to sustain Your gift of nature.
Lord, hear our prayer.

POSSIBLE PRAYERS FROM THE PEWS AFTER INTERCESSIONS ON SEPTEMBER 2.

PRAYER FOR CREATION

From The Book of Common Prayer (1549)

We give you thanks, most gracious God,
for the beauty of the earth and sky and sea;
for the richness of mountains, plains, and rivers;
for the songs of birds and the loveliness of flowers.
We praise you for these good gifts and pray
that we may safeguard them for our posterity.
Grant that we may continue to grow
in our grateful enjoyment of your abundant creation,
to the honor and glory of your Name, now and forever.

BLESSING FOR THE PRODUCTS OF NATURE

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Blessed are you, O God,
Creator of the universe,
who have made all things good
and given the earth for us to cultivate.
Grant that we may always use created things gratefully
and share your gift with those in need,
out of the love of Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you for ever and ever.
Amen

A PRAYER FOR OUR EARTH

*Adapted from Pope Francis's Prayer in Laudato Si' by Catholic Health Association of the United
States*

O God of the poor,
help us to rescue the abandoned
and forgotten of this earth,
who are so precious in your eyes.
God of love, show us our place in this world
as channels of your love

for all the creatures of this earth.
God of mercy, may we receive your forgiveness
and convey your mercy throughout our common home.
Praise be to you!
Amen.

PRAYER FOR RESTORATION OF CREATION

From The Green Bible Devotional, p. 170

Great God, we ache for the day when all is restored,
when the whole of creation is healed
from the consequences of our sin.
Strengthen us as we work toward that restoration.
Show us how to be part of your healing work in the world.
Thank you for the hope of what is to come.

ST. FRANCIS PRAYER

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy;

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

TO PROTECT AND HEAL GOD'S CREATION

From USCCB

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.

A PRAYER FOR OUR EARTH

From Pope Francis, Laudato Si', June 18, 2015

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.

Fill us with peace that we may live
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor,

help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth,
so precious in your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives,

that we may protect the world and not prey on it,

that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts

of those who look only for gain

at the expense of the poor and the earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,

to be filled with awe and contemplation,

to recognize that we are profoundly united

with every creature

as we journey towards your infinite light.

We thank you for being with us each day.
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle
for justice, love and peace.

LAST YEAR'S PRAYER IN THE PEWS

Prayer for Care of Creation

From Catholic Climate Covenant Feast of St. Francis 2017 materials, adapted from Friending Planet Earth.

God of all creation,
we thank you for the abundant gifts
you have given us—
the gift of your unconditional love,
the gift of each other and
the gift of all created things.
We praise you for your generosity
and your loving care for us.
We hear your call to us
to live in right relationship
with each other and with creation.
Help us to always be mindful
of how our actions affect your gifts—
for good or for bad.
We ask this in the name of your Son,
our Redeemer,
and in your Spirit. Amen.