



LENTEN CALENDAR 2026

Care for God's Creation

St. Patrick Parish with St. Malachi Oratory

WEEK	REFLECTION	ACTIONS
<p>FEB 22 WATER FOR THOSE WHO THIRST</p> <p>Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7 Ps 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17 Rom 5:12-19 Mt 4:1-11</p>	<p>In today's gospel, "Jesus prepared for the test by fasting forty days and forty nights," leaving him in a state of extreme hunger and thirst. When Jesus welcomed into heaven those who gave drink to anyone thirsty (Mt. 34-46), he knew what he was speaking about! Water is essential to all of creation on Earth, providing sustenance, energy, and majesty. Today, the availability of safe water is a big problem for the world's poor. As people of faith, we respond to Jesus' suffering and death as well as the suffering and death within creation.</p>	<p>Consider using water with a greater awareness and reverence when showering, washing dishes and clothes, brushing teeth, watering gardens, and entering and leaving church. Be mindful of how you can better conserve this precious resource.</p>
<p>MAR 1 MY HELP COMES FROM THE LORD</p> <p>Gn 12:1-4a Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22. 2 Tm 1:8b-10 Mt 17:1-9</p>	<p><i>My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.</i> Personal encounters with God happen in a specific time and place on Earth. God speaks to us through creation: the stars, the dust, a new land (Gn 12:1-4), on a mountaintop and through a cloud (Mt. 17:1-9). Where do you encounter God's awesomeness and wonder and graces? Where and how does God speak to you? Chances are it is through some form of nature and the love we receive and give to each other.</p>	<p>Go to your favorite place in nature. Listen to what God has to say to you. Then respond!</p>
<p>MAR 8 GIVE US LIVING WATER</p> <p>Ex 17:3-7 Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 Rom 5:1-2, 5-8 Jn 4:5-42</p>	<p>Jesus' dialogue with a Samaritan woman reveals His respect for her. The water well is a place where many meetings take place in Hebrew Scripture. People at that time would not be able to imagine the dead water that exists in some places today. And many wells have run dry. How we truly need Jesus to give us living water today—figuratively and literally. How are we being asked to help Jesus do this?</p>	<p>In addition to conserving water, consider donating to nonprofits promoting access to safe and healthy water, such as protecting Lake Erie (our main source of drinking water).</p>

Our parish Creation Care Team invites parishioners to use this calendar during Lent to reflect on God's gifts of creation and to consider actions we might take to promote environmental stewardship as a Lenten spiritual practice.



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WEEK	REFLECTION	ACTIONS
<p>MAR 15 GOD'S LIGHT OVERCOMES HUMAN DARKNESS</p> <p>1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a Ps 23: 1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 Eph 5:8-14 Jn 9:1-41</p>	<p>Paul's letter to the Ephesians and the Gospel story of the healing and conversion of the man born blind assure us of two things: God's light fights to overcome human darkness, and the forces of darkness resist the spread of divine light throughout humanity and all of creation. Pope Francis and Pope Leo have called us open our eyes and become enlightened about the dark crisis of climate change, to inspire insightful ways to heal and sustain God's brilliant creation. We cannot use our past unknowing blindness to broad ecological damage as an excuse for inaction. Our scriptures today declare the sure possibility for us to open ourselves to the healing, converting light of God through Christ and the Church. Pope Francis and Pope Leo point the way to make changes enlightening humanity and creation to go in a new direction toward that light for our world.</p>	<p>Study the <i>Laudato Si'</i> encyclical letter. Pope Francis analyzes the blindness that our present human wisdom has inflicted on our societies. The encyclical offers both a diagnosis of our blindness and a treatment to restore our sight.</p> <p>laudatosiactionplatform.org</p>
<p>MAR 22 CALLED TO BE A PEOPLE OF RESURRECTION</p> <p>Ez 37:12-14 Ps. 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 Rom 8:8-11 Jn 11:1-45</p>	<p>Next weekend, we celebrate the exuberance of Palm Sunday... our Hosannas leading, in the end, to Jesus' betrayal, his suffering, his crucifixion and his death. But suffering and death do not have the final say with Christians. As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to encounter the risen Christ according to the opportunities we have chosen. We are called to seek out and bring healing to the poor and suffering. As we roll away the stone, may we also recognize and attend to a beloved world that is facing death—our planet calling to us for healing.</p>	<p>Respond to the tragedies experienced by those suffering the impacts of climate change: fires, floods, droughts and more. Let us hear the cry of our beloved Earth and its creatures, oceans, streams, seas, and forest creatures.</p>

Inspired by Pope Francis' encyclical letter *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home* (2015), parishioners formed the Creation Care Team to demonstrate our admiration for, appreciation of, and care for God's creation. We are working to extend better stewardship of God's creation on both campuses of our parish. For more information or to get involved, contact the rectory at (216) 631-6872.