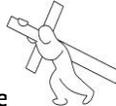




# Lent 2017 CARING FOR GOD'S CREATION Calendar

PRAY + LEARN + ACT + ADVOCATE

*“Faith . . . by revealing the love of God the Creator, enables us to respect nature all the more, and to discern in it a grammar written by the hand of God and a dwelling place entrusted to our protection and care.”* –Pope Francis

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>“Caring, protecting, demands goodness, it calls for a certain tenderness ... Great tenderness... is not the virtue of the weak but rather a sign of strength of spirit and a capacity for concern, for compassion, for genuine openness to others, for love. We must not be afraid of goodness, of tenderness!” - Inauguration homily of Pope Francis 2013</p> <p>This calendar will guide you on a 40-day journey with prayer, reflections, information, and suggested actions of sacrifice and advocacy that you can take to protect our Earth and advocate for those who are most vulnerable to various environmental stresses.</p> <p>† Blessings on your Journey †</p>			<p><b>MARCH 1</b></p> <p><b>PRAY:</b> As Lent begins let us keep in mind our Creator and his Gift of Creation and reflect on our connection to the Earth at both our beginning and end: “Remember . . . you are dust and to dust you will return.”</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p><b>LEARN:</b> “If anyone wishes to come after me ...” Lk 9:22 We are called to take up our cross. What sacrifices can we make to live more simply and use fewer of the Earth’s resources?</p> 	<p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>ACT:</b> On Fridays during Lent we abstain from meat. Choosing a meat-free meal is one of the most powerful things you can do to reduce your carbon footprint. <b>LEARN:</b> <a href="http://www.thevegetariansite.com/env_animalfarming.htm">www.thevegetariansite.com/env_animalfarming.htm</a> + Soup &amp; Sacrifice +</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>ACT:</b> “As a corporal work of mercy, care for our common home requires “simple daily gestures which break with the logic of violence, exploitation and selfishness” and “makes itself felt in every action that seeks to build a better world” -Pope Francis</p>
<p><b>First Sunday 5</b></p> <p><b>PRAY: The Canticle of the Sun of St. Francis:</b> <a href="http://www2.webster.edu/~barrettb/canticle.htm">www2.webster.edu/~barrettb/canticle.htm</a></p> <p>Praised be my Lord . . . for our brother the Sun, which brings us the day . . . shining with a very great splendor, O Lord, he signifies you to us!</p> 	<p><b>6</b></p> <p><b>ACT:</b> Look into a purchase of locally-grown food today. Visit a farmers’ market, or join a CSA which delivers local produce [CSA = Community Supported Agriculture) <a href="http://www.localharvest.org">www.localharvest.org</a></p> 	<p><b>7</b></p> <p><b>LEARN:</b> We are using up our resources at an unsustainable rate for the care of future generations. <b>ACT:</b> Do one thing today to “Live simply that others may simply live.” - attributed to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton &amp; others before her</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p><b>LEARN:</b> Investigate Renewable Energy technologies, like solar power, to become less dependent on the power grid. <b>ADVOCATE:</b> This is good for our economy, environment and energy security.</p> 	<p><b>9</b></p> <p><b>LEARN:</b> The world’s poor will be hit hardest by climate change. <b>ACT:</b> Join Catholics taking action and raising our voice on behalf of Creation and the poor. Sign the St. Francis Pledge: <a href="http://CatholicClimateCovenant.org">CatholicClimateCovenant.org</a></p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p><b>ACT:</b> Conserve Earth’s resources by minimizing disposables. Use a mug for coffee and water at work.</p> <p><b>ACT:</b> Bring your own bowl and mug to Soup &amp; Sacrifice tonight.</p>   <p>+ Soup &amp; Sacrifice +</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p><b>PRAY</b> for children worldwide. “Future generations cannot be saddled with the cost of our use of common environmental resources” -Benedict XVI <b>ACT:</b> Become a member of the Blessed Nuno Society to pray for orphans in Agua Prieta Mexico &amp; elsewhere <a href="http://BlessedNunoSociety">Blessed Nuno Society</a></p>
<p><b>Second Sunday 12</b></p> <p><b>PRAY: The Canticle . . .</b></p> <p>Praised be my Lord for our sister the Moon, and for the Stars, which God set clear and lovely in heaven. “We are made of star stuff, we are a way for the cosmos to know itself.” - Carl Sagan</p> 	<p><b>13</b></p> <p><b>ADVOCATE:</b> There has been a tragic rise in the number of migrants seeking to flee from the growing poverty caused by environmental degradation. . . Sadly, there is widespread indifference to such suffering . . . <a href="http://LaudatoSi">#25</a></p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p><b>ACT:</b> “The works of charity &amp; justice as well as the promotion of solidarity, justice, peace . . . and <i>stewardship of creation</i> build up the Kingdom of God.” - Disciples Called to Witness, USCCB</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p><b>PRAY:</b> for wisdom to know how to live in the light of so much inequality in the world</p> <p><b>ACT:</b> Turn off lights that you are not using. Enjoy the night sky!</p> 	<p><b>16</b></p> <p><b>ACT:</b> Be aware of how much food you discard. Eat leftovers &amp; avoid wasting food. <b>ADVOCATE</b> for the hungry in our midst and globally. Consider work at the St. Vincent de Paul pantry, at Casa Maria, or participating in CRS Rice Bowl: <a href="http://www.crsricebowl.org/about">www.crsricebowl.org/about</a></p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p><b>St. Patrick</b></p> <p><b>PRAY:</b> “I arise today, through the strength of heaven, light of the sun, radiance of the moon, splendor of fire, speed of lightning, swiftness of wind, depth of the sea, stability of the earth.” - St Patrick’s Breastplate <a href="http://tinyurl.com/8ejqasm">tinyurl.com/8ejqasm</a> + Soup &amp; Sacrifice +</p> 	<p><b>18</b></p> <p><b>LEARN:</b> Refresh your memory today on what items are allowed for curbside recycling.</p> <p><b>ASSESS:</b> Are you recycling everything you can? Find out at <a href="http://Tucson.gov">Tucson.gov</a>’s “Do More Blue” website: <a href="http://tinyurl.com/n8l9bzs">tinyurl.com/n8l9bzs</a> or your local recycling facility</p> 

<p><b>Third Sunday 19</b></p> <p><b>PRAY: The Canticle</b> </p> <p>Praised be my Lord for our brother the Wind, and for Air, Cloud, &amp; all Weather, by which you uphold in life all creatures. <b>Eve of Spring Equinox</b></p>	<p><b>St. Joseph 20</b> </p> <p><b>ACT:</b> "Work is part of God's plan for the world; by responsibly cultivating the goods of creation, we grow in dignity as men and women made in God's image." <i>Pope Francis on St Joseph</i> <a href="http://tinyurl.com/lkd4d2j">http://tinyurl.com/lkd4d2j</a></p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p><b>PRAY:</b> <i>There is always hope for a tree: If it is cut down, it will sprout again ...</i> Job 14:7</p> <p><b>ACT:</b> Plant a tree! see: <i>"Trees for Tucson"</i></p> 	<p><b>22</b></p> <p><b>LEARN:</b> about what you can do to make Tucson (or your city) more sustainable</p> <p><b>ACT:</b> get involved at: <a href="http://www.sustainabletucson.org/what-you-can-do/top-10/">www.sustainabletucson.org/what-you-can-do/top-10/</a></p> 	<p><b>23</b></p> <p><b>ASSESS:</b> Purchase more thoughtfully with respect to the environment, human rights and social justice. Question your need before buying.</p> <p><b>LEARN:</b> Visit: <a href="http://www.betterworldshopper.com">www.betterworldshopper.com</a></p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p><b>ACT:</b> Plan ahead to bring reusable bags when shopping. Want a bag made <u>from</u> recycled materials? Most are <u>sold in bulk</u> for groups and promotions but you can find a few single bags <u>here</u> and <u>there</u>... or sew your own!</p> <p>+ Soup &amp; Sacrifice +</p>	<p><b>The Annunciation 25</b></p> <p><b>PRAY:</b> "It was the moment when all creation held its collective breath" <a href="http://tinyurl.com/zx23ngp">tinyurl.com/zx23ngp</a></p>  <p>Spend an <b>EARTH HOUR</b> in prayer today &amp; fast from non-essential energy use. <a href="http://www.earthhour.org">www.earthhour.org</a></p>
<p><b>Laetare Sunday 26</b></p> <p><b>PRAY: The Canticle</b> </p> <p>Praised be my Lord for our sister Water, which is very useful to us, and humble and precious and clean.</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p><b>LEARN:</b> Reflect on the fact that the richest 20% of the world's population consumes 80% of its resources while the remaining 80% of people have to make do with the remaining 20%.</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p><b>ADVOCATE:</b> "Since we derive all our electricity from nature, the relationship of humanity and environment has the broadest implications for energy policy." - U.S. Bishops</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p><b>ACT:</b> Consider the cost of buying water in disposable plastic bottles to both your pocketbook and the environment &amp; consider alternatives.</p> <p><b>PRAY:</b> "Praised be . . . for our sister Water"</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p><b>ADVOCATE:</b> "We must not think that these efforts are not going to change the world. They benefit society, often unbeknown to us, for they call forth a goodness which, albeit unseen, inevitably tends to spread." <i>Laudato Si'</i></p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p><b>PRAY:</b> "To protect creation, to protect every man and every woman, to look upon them with tenderness and love, is to open up a horizon of hope . . ." - Pope Francis</p> <p>+ Soup &amp; Sacrifice +</p> 	<p><b>APRIL 1</b></p> <p><b>LEARN:</b> Pope Francis tells us that it is our crucial responsibility to pursue policies respectful of our Earth: "God always forgives, we sometimes forgive, but when nature— creation — is mistreated, she never forgives!" See quote at: <a href="http://tinyurl.com/m9xftz">tinyurl.com/m9xftz</a></p>
<p><b>Fifth Sunday 2</b></p> <p><b>PRAY: The Canticle</b> </p> <p>Praised be my Lord for our sister Mother Earth, which sustains us and keeps us, and yields diverse fruits, and flowers of many colors, and grass.</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>ACT:</b> To 'tread more softly' on our sacred Earth, combine trips via carpool, use public transportation, walk, or ride a bike: <a href="http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/bicycle">cms3.tucsonaz.gov/bicycle</a></p> 	<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>LEARN:</b> It's hard to open ourselves up to the realities of the climate crisis.</p>  <p>Learn more about Church Teachings: <a href="http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/Teachings">www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/Teachings</a></p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>ADVOCATE:</b> "The Church has a responsibility towards creation and she must assert this responsibility in the public sphere." — Pope Benedict XVI <i>Caritas in Veritate</i></p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p><b>PRAY:</b> When our eyes are enlightened ... they open to the contemplation of God in the beauty of nature and the grandeur of the cosmos, and lead us to discover how everything speaks to us of... His love. -Pope Francis</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p><b>ACT:</b> Don't know where to recycle old electronic gadgets or other items? Visit Tucson Clean &amp; Beautiful Inc.'s Recycling Directory to find out.</p> <p>+ Soup &amp; Sacrifice +</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p><b>PRAY:</b> for ALL Creation: "Each creature has its own purpose. None is superfluous. The entire material universe speaks of God's love, his boundless affection for us. Soil, water, mountains: everything is, as it were, a caress of God." -Pope Francis: <i>Laudato Si'</i> #84</p>
<p><b>PALM SUNDAY 9</b></p> <p><b>PRAY:</b> Reflect on St. Luke's Palm Sunday Gospel: "...if they keep silent even the stones will cry out." Lk 19:40</p>  <p>Are the stones of our fragile Earth crying out? Have <u>we</u> been silent for too long?</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p><b>PRAY:</b> especially for the poor and vulnerable this Holy Week. "Environmental degradation makes the life of the poor especially unbearable." - Pope Benedict XVI</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p><b>PRAY:</b> Reflect on Pope Benedict XVI's message for the 2010 World Day of Peace: "If You Want to Cultivate Peace, Protect Creation" <a href="http://tinyurl.com/yfd3cdp">tinyurl.com/yfd3cdp</a></p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p><b>PRAY:</b> Reflect on the meaning of covenant. "... the covenant between human beings and the environment . . . should mirror the creative love of God..."</p>  <p>Pope Benedict XVI</p>	<p><b>HOLY THURSDAY 13</b></p>  <p><b>PRAY:</b> Reflect on the precious gift of the Eucharist, Christ's Real Presence consecrated for us from the "fruit of the earth and work of human hands"</p>	<p><b>GOOD FRIDAY 14</b></p>  <p><b>PRAY:</b> Meditate on the deep <b>Mystery of Love</b> crucified "on a tree" . . . "Behold the wood of the cross, on which hung the Savior of the world." - Good Friday Liturgy</p>	<p><b>HOLY SATURDAY 15</b></p> <p><b>PRAY: The Exsultet:</b> On this, your night of grace, O holy Father, accept this <b>candle</b>, a solemn offering, the work of bees &amp; of your servants' hands ... drawn out by mother <b>bees</b> to build a torch so precious . . .</p> 



**16 EASTER SUNDAY** On this glorious day "let the earth rejoice, in shining splendor" even though it is so often mistreated and greedily exploited, resulting in an alteration of natural equilibria. I think especially of those areas affected by climate change, which not infrequently causes drought or violent flooding, which then lead to food crises in different parts of the world. - Pope Francis, Easter 2016