

Creation Care Tips 2027 (Year B)

Use these environmental challenges in your bulletin, social media feed, or website to encourage parishioners to care for creation.

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November 29, 2026 • 1st Week of Advent

“And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake!” –Mark 13:37. How easy it is to forget or disregard our impact on the environment! This week, “stay awake” and reflect on specific ways to decrease your negative effects on the environment. Could you bike or walk somewhere instead of driving? Could you bring a reusable water bottle, so you don’t have to buy one? As uncomfortable as it may be, stay awake to the choices you make that hurt our common home.

December 6, 2026 • 2nd Week of Advent

As you buy gifts and prepare to wrap presents for Christmas this year, think about the impact of wrapping paper on the environment. Not only are trees cut down to make it, but it usually can't be recycled and ends up in the trash instead. Landfills in the United States are filling up at almost two a day! Choose an alternative this year: old newspapers or magazines, other re-used paper, cloth napkins, etc.

December 13, 2026 • 3rd Week of Advent

“For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.” –Isaiah 61:11. The natural world gives praise to God: the trees that remain green even at this time of year, the birds that sing, even the snow that falls slowly. How can you see God in the natural world around you? Take a walk or go outside this week and notice all the beautiful sights and sounds.

December 20, 2026 • 4th Week of Advent

Advent is a time of darkness, a time of waiting. We are waiting for the birth of Jesus, the light of the world. This week, spend some time thinking about your use of light. Take some evenings this week to turn off your lights after dinner. Spend some time in candlelight or even enjoying the light of the moon. Consider making a “night by candlelight” (or even a fully electricity-free night) part of your weekly schedule.

December 27, 2026 • Feast of the Holy Family

New Year's Eve is a time of great anticipation and celebration. It can also be a time of significant waste. In 2022, 132,000 pounds of garbage were collected from the streets of New York after the famous ball drop. When planning your New Year's Eve celebration, consider your waste. Use washable plates for your evening meal, make or reuse celebratory hats, and use reusable decorations. If you want to use poppers or confetti, consider making them at home from recycled paper and materials.

January 3, 2027 • Epiphany

"Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you." –Isaiah 60:5. Approximately 3 billion people worldwide rely on seafood as an essential source of nutrition. Sadly, wild fish populations are declining rapidly due to overfishing, poor resource management, and climate change. Before buying or ordering seafood, check the Seafood Watch consumer guide to help you identify the most sustainable choices: [SeafoodWatch.org](https://www.seafoodwatch.org) or download the mobile app.

January 10, 2027 • Baptism of the Lord

Water is central to the sacrament of baptism because it has the power to give and sustain life. Water can also take life when it is contaminated or when there is not enough for drinking, washing, or farming. According to the United Nations, more than 1.2 billion people lack access to clean water. Diseases caused by polluted water kill one child every eight seconds. Consider reading the book *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park and/or donating to an organization like the One Drop Foundation ([OneDrop.org](https://www.onedrop.org)) to promote clean drinking water for all of the world's population.

January 17, 2027 • 2nd Week in Ordinary Time

"Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." –1 Samuel 3:9. Like Samuel, are we attentively listening to the calling of God? Pope Francis explains in *Laudato Si'*, "We are called to be instruments of God our Father so that our planet might be what he desired when he created it and correspond with his plan for peace, beauty, and fullness." This week, start a habit to become a better instrument for God. Collect rainwater to water indoor plants, eat less meat, combine trips to reduce car/gas usage, or take other steps to care for our common home.

January 24, 2027 • 3rd Week in Ordinary Time

"For the present form of this world is passing away." –1 Corinthians 7:31. It can be frightening to imagine that the extremes of heat and cold, storms, droughts, rising oceans, and wildfires are the new normal, but scientists worldwide agree on this. If the world as we know it is passing away, what new, simpler lifestyles can we embrace as life-giving even though we may have experienced them as inconvenient restrictions previously? Less, or no, air travel? Less-extravagant consumption? Eating lower on the food chain? Wearing more layers and keeping the heat turned down? This week, choose something you previously considered inconvenient and focus on the simplicity, pleasure, and value inherent in it now.