

Advent



An Advent of Caring for Creation - 2021

*I have done what was mine to do; may Christ teach you
what you are to do. – St. Francis*

This Advent season, we will reflect on passages from *Laudato Si'*. Meditating and praying on the passages can support us in taking actions inspired by Pope Francis' words and wisdom and by the seven multiyear [Laudato Si' Action Platform](#) goals.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
November 28	November 29	November 30	December 1	December 2	December 3	December 4
Subscribe to the weekly EarthBeat e-newsletter and explore the videos on the website Eco Catholic .	Read a book that explores our connection with all others and all Creation. Helpful authors include Teilhard de Chardin, Richard Rohr, and Ilio Delio.	For planting in the spring, select a native species that is food for pollinators. For now, buy the seeds you will need or acquire a plant to nurture indoors.	Begin and end a day this week by singing the hymn "For the Beauty of the Earth." Add a verse of your own—or compose your own hymn to the Earth.	Meditate on your understanding of how caring for the Earth is at the heart of caring for life.	Consider possible negative consequences from a technological approach to reducing climate change—such as electric vehicles or nuclear power.	Identify a behavior or choice from your daily life that has potentially negative consequences for Creation. Reduce, modify, or eliminate this behavior or choice.
December 5	December 6	December 7	December 8	December 9	December 10	December 11
Identify ways you may be a part of our "throwaway culture." Determine one or more steps you can take to use fewer "throwaway" resources.	Change your buying and consuming practices to reduce any indirect participation in deforestation. A helpful resource for this effort is the Rainforest Alliance .	Meditate (and write if you are moved to do so) on how caring for the Earth is synonymous with loving God.	Learn more about the additives and contaminants (including "forever chemicals," or PFAS) in your local drinking water and about their sources and potential hazards.	Learn about species loss in your region. A source of information includes the Nature Conservancy chapter for your state or area.	Share your voice, insight, and wisdom in behalf of human or other life (such as plants or animals) that you believe needs more advocates.	Determine the source of a product you often buy, making changes in your buying habits if you find that the present source is exploitive.
December 12	December 13	December 14	December 15	December 16	December 17	December 18
Research the relative merits of an organically grown fruit or vegetable compared to the same fruit or vegetable when it is commercially grown (i.e., using pesticides, etc.).	Study an endangered species, large or small, and then determine—and if possible, take—a step in behalf of that species.	Compose a poem or journal entry in the voice of someone whose life is filled with hardship exacerbated by environmental deterioration.	Learn about the effects of climate change and environmental degradation in another region of the world and about how our own behaviors are adding to these problems.	Watch the short United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) video " What is the link between climate change and conflict? "	Increase your reliance on locally grown produce. Reduce your consumption of out-of-season produce that has traveled long distances to reach you.	Compose a poem, brief story, or short article with the theme of loving and protecting Creation. For a more ambitious project, create a children's version of <i>Laudato Si'</i> .
December 19	December 20	December 21	December 22	December 23	December 24	December 25
Read and consider memorizing a poem on our connection with Nature. Or stand outside at night, absorbing the sounds and sights and the vast expanse of Creation.	Identify five passages from Scripture that speak to care of the Earth. Memorize these passages or refresh them in your memory.	Compose (and if you have the means, deliver) a Gospel-based homily or sermon on care for the Earth.	Identify a local source of ongoing pollution and try to determine some of the contributing social and economic factors in the continuance of this pollution.	If the weather allows, find a welcoming natural setting in which to pray. If the weather is inhospitable, meditate and pray using a picture or a scene in your memory for inspiration.	Host a discussion session on <i>Laudato Si'</i> . Ask each participant to determine a next step she or he will take in behalf of Creation.	MERRY CHRISTMAS! Celebrate Jesus' birth in part by honoring God's presence in all of Creation. Celebrate in ways that are kind to the Earth.

