



ARCHDIOCESE
OF LOUISVILLE

Creation Care Network News

August 2026

*“Wherever it flows, the river teems with every kind of living creature; fish will abound.
Where these waters flow they refresh; everything lives where the river goes.”
Ezekiel 47: 9*

SEASON OF CREATION 2026

Every year, Christians around the world celebrate The Season of Creation from September 1st until the Feast of St. Francis on October 4th. This year's theme is “Living Water”, based on the biblical text found in Ezekiel 47:9,12. The passage describes a vision of God's life-giving water flowing from God's temple to restore barren land and sustain flourishing ecosystems.



Living Water
Season of Creation 2026

Immersion in Living Water
EZEKIEL 47:9, 12

In our Archdiocese, several programs and events are planned to observe this special season. This newsletter highlights a few of them.

Resources to plan Season of Creation celebrations in your own parish or school are also available.

- The [ecumenical Season of Creation website](#) offers [a video introduction](#), a [downloadable Celebration Guide](#), and [“If Water Could Speak” a Resource for Youth and Children](#) with a series of lessons and activities.
- [Catholic Climate Covenant provides additional resources](#) including a special [Feast of St. Francis Program](#) and information on the Season of Creation from the USCCB.
- Fr. James Flynn has created [a presentation with a slide for each day of the Season of Creation](#). These could be a great resource for sharing in parish bulletins or on social media.

- You may also want to share [Pope Leo XVI's message for the 2026 World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, September 1st](#). Reflecting on the passage from Isaiah 2:4 ““They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks”, the Holy Father tells us to “to allow our hearts to be renewed, so that we might seek peace and care for creation.”

SEASON OF CREATION STUDENT POSTER CONTEST

- The **4th Annual Season of Creation Student Poster Contest** is open to students in grades K through 8 from Catholic schools and parishes throughout the Archdiocese. For our 2026 poster theme, we invite students to illustrate the 2026 Season of Creation theme, “Living Water”.
Student winners in three different grade categories (K-2, 3-5, 6-8) will be selected from entries that are submitted by October 5. In addition to individual student awards, we also offer an award to the school(s) with the highest percentage of student participation.
- [Use this link to access full contest guidelines with information on awards, rules, and entry forms](#)

AT EPIPHANY CATHOLIC CHURCH

- **Sept. 1:** [Tuesday, 7 pm World Day of Prayer Interfaith service in Epiphany's Worship Center](#)
- **Sept. 10:** Thursday, 5:30-7:00 pm **Social Concerns Forum: Panel discussion on local and global water issues** in Epiphany's Community Center.
Panelists include: Tim Darst (KIPL), Sr. Lorraine Lauter OSU (Water by Women), **Professor Andrew Day** (University of Louisville), **Barbara Crow Theobald** (Louisville Water Company).
Contact Tim Grove at tim@ecclou.org to register.

These events are at 914 Old Harrods Creek Rd, Louisville, KY 40223

AT ST. RAPHAEL THE ARCHANGEL CHURCH

The **St. Raphael Green Giants Environmental Team** welcomes all who are interested to attend their regular monthly meetings. They usually meet at 6:00 pm on the second Sunday of each month. Contact Susan Meyer (sha08@bellsouth.net) to confirm the time and location.

- **Sept. 13:** A representative from [SOS International](#) will share how they redistribute surplus medical supplies locally and internationally.
- **Oct. 11:** A representative from [Kentucky Refugee Ministries](#) will share information on their mission and work in our community

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE BUS TOUR

- **Sept. 19:** Saturday, 9:00-11:30am, [The Passionist Earth & Spirit Center](#) will offer a public [Environmental Justice Bus Tour led by Tim Darst](#).
- “This engaging and eye-opening experience takes participants through West Louisville, where environmental challenges and economic inequities intersect. Along the way, you'll take part in interactive discussions that explore the history, impact, and ongoing realities of environmental justice in our community.”
- The tour price is \$15 per person. Contact 502.452.2749 or tim@earthandspiritcenter.org to register for the tour.

AT BELLARMINE UNIVERSITY

- **Sept. 21:** Monday, 4:00-5:00 pm, in Centro CNMH 244 (Alumni Legacy Room), Fr. Patrick Delahanty will present a program on **Laudato Si' and Environmentally Responsible Investing**. Fr. Delahanty is a retired priest of the Archdiocese of Louisville and a certified Laudato Si' Animator. He will be discussing how he was inspired by the encyclical Laudato Si' to pursue environmentally-conscious investing strategies.
The public is invited to attend. For more information, email kbulinski@bellarmine.edu
- **Oct. 1:** Thursday, 4:00-5:30 pm Bellarmine University's Campus Ministry and Department of Environmental Studies will host the **5th Annual Bellarmine Tree Pilgrimage**, a walking pilgrimage to observe the Season of Creation and the school's celebration of the Feast of Saint Francis. The tour will begin in the Thomas Merton Center on the 2nd floor of Bellarmine's library. Participants will walk through the campus, stopping at nine trees for prayers, poetry and short reflections by several guest speakers. The public is invited to attend. For more information, email campusministry@bellarmine.edu .

LAUDATO SI' IN ACTION: REDUCING PLASTIC POLLUTION

- **Sept. 23:** Wednesday, 3:30-6:00 pm at the Maloney Center (1200 S Shelby St, Louisville, KY 40203) the Archdiocese of Louisville Office of Faith Formation is offering a professional development session, **“Laudato Si’ in Action: Reducing Plastic Pollution”**. In his encyclical, “Laudato Si’”, Pope Francis wrote: “Education in environmental responsibility can encourage ways of acting which directly and significantly affect the world around us.” (LS211). This program offers Catholic teachers and Catechists instructional materials to engage their students (grades 3-12) in an environmental education program with real world impact. [“Microplastic Madness”](#) is an award winning documentary about a fifth grade class who tackle the problem of plastic pollution and make a difference in their school and community. The film will be viewed in 25 minute segments, sharing teaching resources and instructional materials between the segments.
- For information on Catechist Credits and Registration, contact Lynn McDaniel at lmcdaniel@archlou.org or (502) 636-0296 Ext. 1267

PILGRIMAGE OF HOPE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND RACIAL JUSTICE

- **Sept. 26:** Saturday, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm The **Annual Pilgrimage of Hope for Environmental and Racial Justice** is a collaboration between the Catholic Enrichment Center and Archdiocese of Louisville Creation Care Team. The fundamental intent is to visibly and intentionally demonstrate faith in action for environmental and racial justice issues. The pilgrimage will start at Chickasaw Park (near the pond). After a brief prayer service and remarks, pilgrims will walk to the Catholic Enrichment Center (3146 W Broadway) for prayer, presentations, and lunch. The Louisville Water Company and Kentucky Waterways Alliance are providing resources for participants reflecting the Season of Creation theme of “Living Water”,. Interested parties may call 502-776-0262 ext. 1505 or email jmulligan@archlou.org .

2026 GREEN MASS

- **Sept. 30:** Wed. 6:30 pm, The **Third Annual Archdiocesan Green Mass** will be celebrated at Epiphany Catholic Church (914 Old Harrods Creek Rd). A “Green Mass” or “Mass for Creation” is a Eucharistic celebration with a focus on celebrating God’s gift of creation. The Mass will follow the special formulary of prayers and readings issued by the Vatican last year.
- The Mass will be followed by a reception featuring presentations by students from Catholic high schools in the Archdiocese. The students will highlight their projects demonstrating care for our common home.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

- At the end of July, we received an email from Jessica Clemons with [Kids Cause](#), a community youth mentoring group based in Utah. Their members are working on projects focused on waste reduction and donation drives. They wanted to recommend a resource they found helpful. ["Saving Money and the Environment by Recycling and Donating"](#) lists organizations that take gently used items and get them to people who actually need them. In addition to their list, you might want to consider these local organizations:
 - [SOS International](#) for donating surplus medical supplies
 - [Twice Blessed](#) a used clothing store at St. Thomas More Church
 - [Habitat for Humanity Restore](#) for donating furniture, appliances, and building materials

PAST MEETINGS

If you missed any of our past ArchLou Creation Care Network meetings, you can use these links to watch the recordings.

February 2025 - [Samples of Creation Care Action in different parishes](#)

May 2025 - [Respond to the Cry of the Earth by protecting biodiversity - Dr. Kate Bulinski](#)

August 2025 - [Ecological Education for Young People - Ashley Davenport](#)

November 2025 - [The "Laudato Si" Action Platform" - Dr. Kate Bulinski](#)

February 2026 - [The Catholic Conference of KY Legislative Update - Scott Porter \(presentation slides\)](#)

April 2026 - ["How Does Your Native Garden Grow?" - Julia Gerwe-Nicholson](#)

CREATION CARE NETWORK DIRECTORY

Have you added your contact information to the **Creation Care Network Directory** yet? The Directory is a voluntary listing for any Network members who would like to connect directly with others and ask questions or share information about particular efforts (school projects, pollinator gardens, energy efficiency, etc.) [You can view the directory with this link.](#) The more contacts we have, the more useful this listing will be.

If you are willing to include your contact information (Name, email, and parish or school) in this directory, [please use this link to complete a brief survey](#)