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# SALT & LIGHT

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## EARTH DAY EVERY DAY

Day by day the news draws our attention to the urgent need to heal our changing climate. Floods, droughts storms and fires have all intensified at great cost to humans and the other creatures who share our earth. Throughout the world impoverished people are driven to migrate by factors that are intensified by the droughts and floods and rising sea waters that are especially harmful to subsistence farmers. The U.S. has long been the greatest emitter of greenhouse gasses, only recently being passed by China, yet it is the world's poor who are paying the greatest cost, having never benefitted from the carbon economy we have enjoyed.

In his encyclical on the environment, *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis reminds us of our responsibility to our neighbor. "Disregard for the duty to cultivate and maintain a proper relationship with my neighbor, for whose care and custody I am responsible, ruins my relationship with my own self, with others, with God and with the earth. When all these relationships are neglected, when justice no longer dwells in the land, the Bible tells us that life itself is endangered." (no. 70)

On this Earth Day, we are blessed by the gift of faith that certainly calls us to live responsibly, but allows us to know that we do not bear the burden alone. God is with us bringing hope for new life and a new consciousness of our interdependence with all of creation. Again from Pope Francis, "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; it is to let a shaft of light break through the heavy clouds; it is to bring the warmth of hope!" (Sermon,3/19/13)

Blessed Easter and Happy Earth Day to all!

## MORE EARTH DAY

Earth Day is officially celebrated today, Easter Monday, but it mustn't end there. Join people of faith and learn more at the:

### Interfaith Climate Summit

Does your parish have a Creation Care team? Pope Francis made it clear that caring for the earth is part of our faith. Consider sending some representatives to the Interfaith Climate Summit on May 19, at the Greece Baptist Church, 1230 Long Pond Rd, Rochester. Registration at 1:30 p.m.; program 2:00-5:00 p.m.

Share in an interfaith celebration of the gift of our Earth then choose workshops to expand your knowledge. Learn current best practices for recycling, switching to renewable energy, making heating & cooling more sustainable, reducing and handling, food waste, creating a community garden, educating and motivating for Creation care, and advocating for sustainable legislation. Register: [www.raica.net](http://www.raica.net)

## Climate Blessing

We Hold the Earth

We hold brothers and sisters who suffer from storms and droughts intensified by climate change.

We hold all species that suffer.

We hold world leaders delegated to make decisions for life.

We pray that the web of life may be mended through courageous actions to limit carbon emissions.

We pray for right actions for adaptation and mitigation to help our already suffering earth community.

We pray that love and wisdom might inspire my actions and our actions as communities. . .

so that we may, with integrity, look into the eyes of brothers and sisters and all beings and truthfully say, we are doing our part to care for them and the future of the children.

May love transform us and our world with new steps toward life.



From Green Faith

## UNRAVELING RECYCLING

Even the most responsible recyclers are confused and disheartened by news that much of what goes in the recycling bin ends up in landfills. We can all do our part to ensure that recyclable materials do not become garbage by following the guidelines set by the county. St. Monica's parish handed out recycling posters to their congregation on Easter Sunday as part of their Earth Day celebration.

You can find posters suitable for home, school and church as well as a variety of other signs to help guide disposal. Go to <https://www2.monroecounty.gov/des-recycle-right-signs-download?sid=34218> and <https://www2.monroecounty.gov/des-recycle-right-signs>

## GETTING OUTSIDE

The poet, Wendell Berry found great solace in nature. Reconnecting with the outdoors is an essential part of spiritual healing. Here are Berry's words:

When despair for the world grows in me  
and I wake in the night at the least sound  
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,  
I go and lie down where the wood drake  
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron  
feeds.

I come into the peace of wild things  
who do not tax their lives with forethought  
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.  
And I feel above me the day-blind stars  
waiting with their light. For a time  
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

Here are some opportunities to enjoy the company of others in the outdoors:

**Pick Up the Parks** is an Annual County program that engages the community to help clean up the winter trash and debris accumulation. It helps reduce the amount of litter entering our waterways and helps the parks get ready for the spring and summer months. On Sunday April 28th, Pick Up the Parks will take place at each of Monroe County's 21 Parks from 9:00am-12:00pm with a catered meal to follow at each site location. Volunteers are asked to arrive at 8:30am to get signed in and registered. Details at [www2.monroecounty.gov/parks/pickuptheparks](http://www2.monroecounty.gov/parks/pickuptheparks)

**What's Blooming** at Burroughs Audubon Nature Club? Sunday, May 5, 2-4 PM, Sanctuary at 301 Railroad Mills Rd., Victor 14564. [www.facebook.com/banc.roc/](http://www.facebook.com/banc.roc/) Join a leisurely guided walk along the club's trails to see what birds and wildflowers are present. The grounds include a section of Irondequoit Creek. Light refreshments and nature games will be available. Hosts: Ellen and Marigrace, 314-8462

**Clean Sweep Saturday** will be held from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday May 11 and begin at Frontier Field. Volunteers will gather to collect a free Clean Sweep t-shirt, eat a light breakfast and get their assignments before heading out to project sites in city neighborhoods. Mayor Warren will greet the volunteers and pose for a group photo. Volunteers participating in Clean Sweep will receive a free ticket to that day's baseball game, which starts at 1:05 p.m. that afternoon. They'll also receive a voucher for food and drink at the game. Free parking will be available to those wearing Clean Sweep t-shirts.  
[www.cityofrochester.gov/cleansweep/](http://www.cityofrochester.gov/cleansweep/)

## MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Respect Life!** On Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> the Catholic Newman Community at the University of Rochester hosts an interesting panel discussion addressing the Reproductive Health Act and Abortion in New York State. Jean Baric Parker, Catholic D. Bioethics, Angela Maupin Kristan, M.D., a family physician and Raul A. Tabora, Jr., J.D., a health attorney will discuss the Ethical, Medical and Legal perspectives of the bill. This event is at 7:30 PM in the Sanctuary of the Interfaith Chapel at 1045 Wilson Blvd. Campus Parking is available.

**Feminiists for Nonviolent Choices** is having a garage sale and they need your stuff. Spring Cleaning? Please help raise funds by donating items to the Brown-croft Garage Sale. Drop off is May 1st, 2nd, and 3rd.

Please leave items (no clothing please) on front porch at 307 Beresford Road, Rochester (Brown-croft neighborhood). Items not sold will be donated. Questions? Call our office at 319-4565

### Midnight Traveler

Join Catholic Family Center on April 25 at 6:30pm at the Little Theatre for this groundbreaking film and learn what it means to be a refugee! As you may know, CFC has a number of programs that help refugees find peace in Rochester every year. We are so excited to partner with OTFF for this film documenting a firsthand account of a refugee's journey to freedom."

When the Taliban put a bounty on Afghan director Hassan Fazili's head, he is forced to flee with his wife and two young daughters. Over the course of their multi-year saga in search of safety, the family grasped onto the only means they had to assert control: their camera-phones.

As they experienced increasingly degrading circumstances, the family latched on to filmmaking as a way to not just survive, but retain their humanity. Midnight Traveler is a gripping vérité story made by a family on the run. Their unique access and artistic vision provide an intimate portrait of a loving family and the myriad of fellow travelers they meet on their odyssey.

Tickets cost \$7 - \$11 and are available for [purchase online \(http://otff.org/midnight-traveler\)](http://otff.org/midnight-traveler)