

SALT & LIGHT

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LAUDATO SI WEEK MAY 16-24

2020 occasions the fifth anniversary of Laudato Si', which was signed on 24 May 2015.

Pope Francis' encyclical on care for our common home, Laudato Si', is an inspiration during moments of difficulty. It encourages us to reflect on the values we share and create a more just and sustainable future.

The theme of Laudato Si' Week is "everything is connected." During Laudato Si' Week, we come together as one people around the world to prayerfully discern the lessons of this moment. While the world experiences a history-defining crisis, we reflect and prepare to build a better world.

Laudato Si' has been welcomed as a document of deep and abiding beauty, and it has prompted people around the world to reflect more deeply on Creator and creation. Its vision of integral ecology, which sees connections between how we treat God, nature, and each other, offers simple but profound truths about the bonds that unite us.

Much has changed in the last 5 years and sadly much has remained the same. This was going to be a time of many gatherings, actions, and group witness and prayer for our one and only earth. Sadly, the pandemic has changed what this week will look like, but the spirit is still there. In fact, I pray that as the pandemic slowly passes that we will emerge changed. I like to think of us as all being caterpillars. We were in the world eating and consuming non-stop, suddenly we were forced into our cocoons. I pray that when we reemerge we will be something different, something better, recognizing and spreading beauty in new and magical ways.

Even with these changes, the celebration and crusade must go on! There are many places that have resources. I would love to turn your attention to www.laudatosiweek.org where you can find all sorts of resources for your parish or community. There is a great 1-page resource that you can include in your

bulletins (find attached) along sermon helps, prayer services and prayers for personal reflection. If you want to sign up for daily reflections from the USCCB go to usccb.us11.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=75c0c9953e20885f1295adc0f&id=3758e6e5cd to sign up.

Looking at all the resources and webpages they collected can bring you deep down into the rabbit hole of wonderful (and potentially overwhelming) information. I hope to share some of this with you in the week leading up to then. [Here's something you can use on social media:](#)



In Laudato Si', Pope Francis teaches us that "everything is connected." Come together in unity with Catholics from all around the world for Laudato Si' Week. Pope Francis invites you to join in. Learn more at www.laudatosiweek.org #LaudatoSi5

CREATE A ST. KATERI HABITAT

Our habitat ministry encourages individuals, parishes, schools, religious orders, and working landowners to restore their homes in a way that praises God and fosters a greater connection between people and nature. With a focus on God and Catholic faith, the Saint Kateri Habitat Program provides living, sacred spaces for people to engage directly in the care of God's creation at home and in their communities. By restoring habitats with reverence for our Creator, the program draws people closer to God and his Church while protecting the integrity of creation. Learn more at <https://www.kateri.org/saint-kateri-habitat-2/>

LIST OF ONLINE MASSES

The Catholic Courier has compiled a list of places to watch/live stream masses. Find it here: <https://catholiccourier.com/articles/list-of-parishes-with-live-streams-available>. To receive notifications of the livestreams and facilitate viewing, subscribe to the *Courier's* YouTube channel (<youtube.com/catholiccourier>).

CENSUS REMINDER

If you haven't responded to the Census yet, you should have received a paper copy in the mail last week. You can fill this out and return it or you can go online or call to submit your household's information. Go to www.2020census.gov to fill it out online or call [844-330-2020](tel:844-330-2020) to do it over the phone.

Did you Know?

Census results affect healthcare? Many programs are funded based on their census numbers, whether it is money to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic, HIV resources, Mental Health funding and more all are determined by the number of people that live in your state/county/town. Be sure your community gets the resources they need!



JOIN US FOR A FREE

JUST FAITH MINI-PROGRAM

What is *JustFaith* you ask? According to their website "JustFaith Ministries was birthed in the effort to invite and prepare people of faith for the life-changing and world-changing call of the Gospel to help heal the world and, in so doing, experience a deeper faith, a more fulfilling life, and a community of care and vitality." In short, it help us look at the world differently, to see how we can shape it into the kingdom God promised us by digging prayerfully and deeply into different social justice issues. Their programs typically meet weekly for 6, 8, or 24 weeks, but during the pandemic, **they are provided one-off mini-reflection sessions for free.** I will be virtually hosting these every Tuesday starting May 12th at 11am and will last between 45 minutes and an hour. **Contact me at mebenhoe@cfcrochester.org to sign-up** or with any questions.

REFLECTION ON PROTESTS TO REOPEN

Thinking that your "personal freedom" outweighs the health and safety of your neighbor isn't really about freedom. That's called entitlement. A 10th grade government teacher explained it to us this way: "Your freedom to swing your arm ends when your hand hits my face."
-Author Unknown

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Prayer to St Joseph for workers and those seeking employment

Silent and well-known carpenter in Nazareth, model of workers, by the work of your hands you gave your contribution to the work of the Creator, you earned your living, and you provided for the needs of the Holy Family. Intercede for all workers, in the difficulties of their daily lives especially for the unemployed, in their anxieties for tomorrow, so that through the guidance of God, the great Architect and Builder, they all may use their strength and talents to make visible God's new creation, to offer a concrete service to society, and to earn wages worthy of their efforts. With confidence and trust we make this prayer through Jesus. Amen.

VIRTUAL NOVENA FOR FARMERS

Every year hundreds of people join together for a very special Novena to St. Isidore, patron saint of farmers and Catholic Rural Life (CRL). Given the essential nature of farmers, farmworkers, and all who are involved in food production and distribution, especially during this global pandemic, CRL is hosting the novena virtually this year!

The novena will begin on Thursday, May 7, and conclude on Friday, May 15, the Feast of St. Isidore, with virtual Mass on a farm in Texas. Each day a Bishop from the CRL Board of Directors will lead us through the novena, lifting up all the intentions of rural communities throughout our country.

For more information and to see the schedule go to <https://catholicrurallife.org/VirtualNovena/>

NEED EMOTIONAL SUPPORT?

If you experiencing emotional distress related to the COVID-19 pandemic, crisis counselors are available 24/7, 365 days a year.

**Call 1-800-985-5990
or text "TalkWithUs" to 66746.**



If you are in crisis or or thinking about suicide, get connected to a local crisis center and get in touch with someone immediately.

**Call 1-800-273-8255 (TALK)
or text "MHA" to 741741.**