

Celebrating Earth Day 2025 as we commemorate Pope Francis and *Laudato Si'*: A Call to Care for Creation

As we approach Earth Day 2025, we reflect on the life and teachings of Pope Francis, and are reminded of his profound commitment to environmental stewardship and social justice, beautifully articulated in his 2015 encyclical, *Laudato Si'*. This landmark document is a clarion call to all people—Catholics and beyond—to recognize the urgent need to protect our planet, combat climate change, care for the vulnerable among us, and was the impetus for the Creation Care Team here at St Joseph parish.

In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis challenges us to see creation as a gift entrusted to our care, not as a resource to be exploited without thought for future generations. He speaks of an “integral ecology,” which connects environmental responsibility with human dignity, emphasizing that environmental degradation disproportionately affects the poor and marginalized.

As a faith community, we are called to respond—not with despair, but with hope and action. Whether through sustainable living, community outreach, or advocacy for policies that protect God’s creation, our role is vital. *Laudato Si'* reminds us that small acts, done with love, create ripples of transformation.

Let us honor Pope Francis’s vision by embracing his call to stewardship and caring for God’s creation. Join the Creation Care Team in living out this mission as we work together to protect the Earth and uplift all who call it home. Visit our booth after all Masses on May 3rd and 4th to celebrate Earth Day and discover ways to make a meaningful difference. Together, we can turn faith into action and be true stewards of God’s gifts.