

Almighty and ever living God,

We come before you in darkness and look for your dawn. We listen for your voice in the midst of the storm.

Help us to hear your words and speak them to others. Help use to change the way we live, that we may shine a light that leads the world to You.

As You brought new life to the world, bring new life to us today, that we may share it abundantly with others.

United in hope, bound by our love for each other and the home we share, we pray this in your name, Jesus Christ.

Amen

Lent is the season of the church year wherein we remember the love of God that is poured out through Christ Jesus on the cross in His death; and His defeat of death, sin and Satan in Christ's death and resurrection that brings Eternal Life to all of us. We prepare for Easter during this 40 day season through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

Please join us on a journey of ecological conversion. By committing to concrete changes through fasting and lifestyle changes, we will live more in solidarity with our Earth and each other and inspire our sisters and brothers to join this conversion process.

A Laudato Si calendar for Lent was created by Laudato Si Lent. Please see a summary below and accept the personal challenge to make a change.....

Week one- Setting an intention of learning the ecological examen (Ecological Examen is a tool for prayer, reflection and action to deepen our call to care for creation and the most vulnerable).

Week two- Fasting from unnecessary purchases. The world produces more than 2 billion tons of waste so perhaps buy ware or clothing at a second hand store (Salvation Army, Good Will or local consignment shop for example).

Week three- Meat fast. Animal agriculture is one of the leading contributors of greenhouse gas emissions which scientists say are effecting climate change. Why not try a new plant based recipe (Wegmans and Shoprite, to name a few, have recipes on their website.)

Week four- Fast from electricity by reducing energy consumption. Turn down your thermostat, use your computer less and turn off lights if you're not using them).

Week five- Fast from single use plastics. Place reusable bags in your car so you don't forget them when you go shopping, buy paper straws rather than plastic ones.

Week six- Fast from silence by actively sharing your concern for our "common home". Raise awareness ...talk about it at your next get together with friends or colleagues.

Next month, we will learn more about ecological conversion..Ecological, cultural and synodal conversion are all interrelated. All three refer to our, the people of God, involvement and participation in the mission of our church. Archbishop Laurent Ulrich of Lille points out that all three require consultation, mutual listening, gathering experiences and the desire for shared mission". Pope Francis defines it as the "transformation in our hearts and mind toward a greater love of God, each other and creation. It is a process of acknowledging our contribution to the social and ecological crisis and acting in ways that nurture healing and renewing our "Common "Home"

Please join us.....God bless.