

# **St. Patrick Catholic Church**

## **Seattle, Washington**



**Care for Creation:**  
**Works in Progress**

# St. Patrick Catholic Church Seattle WA



All Are Welcome!



# Challenges

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- Small parish with many ministries.
- Most parishioners are of modest means.
- Varying ideas on where to focus efforts.



# Accomplishments and Ongoing Efforts



# Building Efficiencies

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- Replaced inefficient furnaces on our property and cut energy usage in half.
- All lighting is energy-efficient.
- More stringent energy assessment planned for upcoming Parish Synod Facilities Survey.
- Seattle Public Utilities Rainwise program installed rain barrels for the parish office building.
- Energy-efficient fixtures in the bathrooms we remodeled.



## Parishioner Awareness & Lifestyle

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- Surveyed the parish on care for creation topics and used the results in our planning.
- Sponsored 6 neighborhood study groups for Laudato Si'.
- Youth forming an action group.
- "Bike support network" for people who bike to church and other places.



## Parishioner Awareness & Lifestyle (continued)

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- Carpools
- Cars in our small parking lot on Sundays are overwhelmingly Priuses and similar.
- Fair Trade coffee for coffee hours and sell it along with Fair Trade chocolate and tea.
- Eliminating the use of non-recyclables in our kitchen and events.



## Parishioner Awareness & Lifestyle (continued)

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- Participating individually in environmental restoration projects.
- “Forest bathing”: hiking meditatively to deepen a felt sense of kinship with creation and with God.

## PRAYER AND LITURGY

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# Blessing of the Animals



A Guide to  
Prayers & Ceremonies  
Celebrating Pets  
& Other Creatures

DIANA L. GUERRERO

- Care for Creation prayer in Prayers of the Faithful each week.
- Sermons focused on care for creation for Earth Day and St. Francis of Assisi feast and others.
- Blessing of the Animals.
- Frequent Creation imagery in music, dance, & ritual: parish Celtic heritage is a rich source.

# Advocacy

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- Greening congregation with Earth Ministry.
- Letter-writing advocacy on environmental justice issues, both locally and internationally.
- Participating in rallies, hearings, and other more direct activities.



## And the future?

Parish Synod just completing.

Will set priorities for the next few years.

Prayer group centered on creation spirituality?

Permaculture classes?

More direct actions with groups more affected by  
climate change.

More creative ways to use our property?

And ????



courtesy of Lynda McMillen