



Diocesan Day of Prayer for Nature's Blessings

June 2, 2021

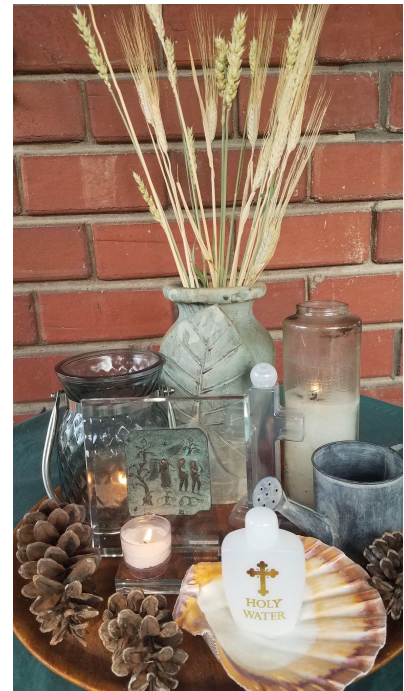
Following the ancient tradition of praying for God's protection in times of natural disasters (drought, flood, storms, poor crops), the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph has established a day of prayer to seek God's help during weather-related challenges or pandemics.

This day is meant to allow for various weather situations in our diocese. In some parts of the diocese priests might celebrate a Mass *For Rain* (#35), while others might pray a Mass *For Fine Weather* (#36) and still others *For an End to Storms* (#37) - [Roman Missal](#). The Vatican has also recently released special Mass texts: [In Time of Pandemic](#).

Outside of Mass, the book [Catholic Household Blessing and Prayers](#) provides prayers which can be used by households and small parish groups: *Prayer for Protection During a Storm*, *Prayer for Rain*, *Prayer for Dry Weather*. In June as food crops mature, we could also pray for protection from insect invasion and 'pestilence'. The [Book of Blessings](#) also provides scripture, intercessions, and blessings pertaining to the natural world.

Additionally, we might take time to heed Pope Francis' words to consider whether human activity has a part in nature's distress, first addressed in his encyclical [Laudato Si'](#) and in subsequent catechesis. We can pray the pontiff's prayers at the end of the encyclical: *A Prayer for Our Earth* or *A Christian Prayer in Union with Creation*.

Other than Mass, these prayers can take place out of doors when feasible. A suitable prayer environment can be created which might include candles, some holy water or other symbol of water (such as a scallop shell or attractive container with water), and objects from nature such as stalks of wheat or pine cones. If several individuals are involved, the prayer can be divided into parts. Suitable songs to begin or end include the following (sung *a cappella*): "For the Fruits of This Creation", "All Things Bright and Beautiful", "All Creatures of our God and King".



Prayer for Nature's Blessings

Introductory Rites

(Leader) God our Creator, the heavens declare your glory, and earth proclaims your handiwork. We praise you for the work of creation.

We praise you for the work of human hands. Bless us and help us in our work, bring us knowledge of our neighbors, our community, our world.

Give us wisdom and humility to be good stewards of the earth and of our days. Make us ever aware of all your creation and of our actions towards every living thing. We ask this through Christ our Lord.



Suggested Scripture Readings *(Reader)*

Sirach 43:11-26: "Look at the rainbow, and praise him who made it.."

Psalms 104:5-23: "You set the earth on its foundations..."

-other-

Lamentations 3:17-26 *Psalms 80:3-7* *Psalms 123:1-2*

Romans 8:31b-39 *Mark 4:35-41*

Litany

The Lord of the Harvest sustains us; let us call upon him. **R: Deliver us, O Lord.**

From despair in times of drought: **R.**

From hunger and thirst: **R.**

From wastefulness in times of plenty: **R.**

From blindness to your presence in our work: **R.**

From neglect of those in need: **R.**

From ignorance of our actions upon your creation: **R.**

Remember us Lord in your kingdom, and teach us to pray (Our Father...)

Intercessions

- You have called us a field under your cultivation; grant that by doing your will in all things we may remain always close to you and to your creation. **R. Lord hear our prayer.**
- You bless the earth and abundance flows; grant that by your blessing we may protect all you have created. **R. Lord hear our prayer.**
- You make the wheat grow that provides our daily bread and gift of the eucharist; give us food made rich by fertile soil and clean water. **R. Lord hear our prayer.**

Prayers for Nature's Blessings

(select appropriate topic)

[Catholic Blessings and Prayers](#) --- "Protection During a Storm", "For Rain", "For Dry Weather."

[Roman Missal](#) --- "For an End to Storms"; "For Rain", "For Fine Weather".

[In Time of Pandemic](#) --- Texts and scripture readings for Mass

Prayer(s) from [Laudato Si'](#) (Paragraph #246)

(All) "A Prayer for Our Earth" or "A Christian Prayer in Union with Creation".

Prayer of Blessing and Conclusion

All-powerful God, we appeal to your tender care that even as you temper the winds and rains you will also send upon them the gentle shower of your blessing. Fill the hearts of your people with gratitude, that from the earth's fertility the hungry may be filled with good things and the needy proclaim the glory of your name. **Amen.**