



# ST. BERNADETTE CATHOLIC PARISH

## St. Bernadette Lenten Study of Encyclical *Laudato Si* Week Two: March 9-11, 2020

### Readings: March 8th (Second Sunday of Lent)

1. Genesis 12 1-4 (Blessing of Abram)  
Psalm: Let your mercy be on us
2. 2 Timothy 1:8-10 (Salvation through Christ)
3. Matthew 17:1-9 (Jesus is transfigured)

Abram's inheritance is the land, the Holy Land. Ours too! All the earth all creation is holy. Through Christ, salvation comes to us. Through our following Him in dying to self and living for God, we are transformed. His Transfiguration gave hope to the apostles when they faced their ultimate challenge. He will help us in our time of need.

We remember when Moses approached the burning bush he needed to take off his shoes because he was standing on holy ground. Pope Francis helps us see that all ground is holy as it is created by God. The Son of God walked on the earth too!

Do we treat the ground as holy or do we exploit the goods of the earth selfishly or without consideration of others. Pope Francis reminds us that we need to live simply so that others might simply live. Let's challenge ourselves to reduce consumerism and waste. Let's care for all God's many gifts to us.

Read *Laudato Si* Chapter 2

Opening Prayer: "*A Prayer for the Earth*"



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## Gospel of Creation

1. In Genesis 1:28 and 2:15, we read that God gave newly created humanity "dominion" over the earth, to "cultivate and care for it." How does Pope Francis interpret these passages? What does he say is our responsibility to God's earth and the creatures in it?
2. According to Pope Francis, the Bible teaches that the harmony between the Creator, humanity, and creation was disrupted by our presuming to take the place of God (§66). What does it mean to presume to take the place of God? What are some ways we've done this? What steps can we take to heal and renew these relationships? Could the fact that Pope Francis invited discussion on the environment instead of dictating the Church's position on the issue be seen as a move to promote this healing process?
3. Some people think that we have gone beyond the point of no return or recovery from the damage already done to our environment. How do you think/feel about that? How does your faith influence your thoughts/feelings about this? Is the reclamation of our planet beyond hope?
4. What is your emotional reaction to the thought that all creation became so as a loving caress by God?
5. What other key points did you see in this chapter? Thoughts? Reactions?



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## Response / Activities

### *Parish Activity:*

- 1.
- 2.

### **Suggestions for Individuals and Families:**

- Take the initiative to talk with others about revering creation as a gift from God and how we can reflect that in the way we live our lives.
- Research has shown that we make our biggest environmental impact through our transportation, food choices, and the energy we use to power our homes. With our diets, the amount of meat we eat creates the greatest negative impact on God's creation because meat production uses such enormous amounts of water and energy. Make a commitment to eat meat at one less meal per week in the coming month.
- Make a list of areas in your home where you could use less water.
- Join others associated with the Catholic Climate Covenant (<https://catholicclimatecovenant.org>) to take action on responding to Pope Francis' encyclical.

### **Closing Prayer: A Christian Prayer in Union with Creation**