

## Announcing the 2023 Season of Creation and World Day of Prayer



**Let Justice  
and Peace Flow**  
Season of Creation 2023

A Mighty River  
Amos 5: 24

Our Rochester Family of Parishes is excited to celebrate the Season of Creation together again this year. The Season of Creation is the annual ecumenical celebration of prayer and action for our common home that takes place from September 1, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, to October 4, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi.



### **MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CARE OF CREATION**

**1<sup>ST</sup> September 2023**

Dear brothers and sisters! “Let Justice and Peace Flow” is the theme of this year’s ecumenical Season of Creation, inspired by the words of the prophet Amos: “let justice flow on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream” (5:24). When we “seek first the kingdom of God” (Mt 6:33), maintaining a right relationship with God, humanity and nature, then justice and peace can flow like a never-failing stream of pure water, nourishing humanity and all creatures. What can we, particularly as Christian communities, do to heal our common home so that it can once again teem with life? We must do this by resolving to transform our *hearts*, our *lifestyles*, and the *public policies* ruling our societies.

Truly, much can be done (Laudato Si’, 180), provided we come together like so many streams, brooks and rivulets, merging finally in a mighty river to irrigate the life of our marvelous planet and our human family for generations to come. So let us join hands and take bold steps to “Let Justice and Peace Flow” throughout our world. In this Season of Creation, as followers of Christ on our shared synodal journey, let us live, work and pray that our common home will teem with life once again. May the Holy Spirit once more hover over the waters and guide our efforts to “renew the face of the earth” (cf. Ps 104:30). [Read Pope Francis' entire message here.](#)



### **2023 Season of Creation Prayer**



*God our Creator, the Word was made flesh and went forth with life-giving waters proclaiming peace and justice for all creation. You called human beings to till and keep your garden. You placed us into right relationship with each creature, but we failed to listen to the cries of the Earth and the vulnerable.*

*We lament the loss of our fellow species and their habitats, we grieve the loss of human cultures, and we ache at the sight of an economy of war and violence. Open our ears to your creative, reconciling and sustaining Word that calls to us through Scripture. Bless us once again with your life-giving waters so that the Creator Spirit may let justice and peace flow in our hearts and overflow into all creation. Open our hearts to receive the living waters of God’s justice and peace, and help us to share it with our suffering brothers and sisters, and all creation.*

*In Jesus’ name, Amen.*



### **Season of Creation Events Coming Soon!**

#### **Season of Creation Lunch and Prayer**

You are invited to a Season of Creation lunch and prayer service with the Rochester Family of Parishes and friends from area churches on Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup>. RSVP required and more information at [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/pray#/.](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/pray#/)

#### **Help with Clinton River Clean-up Day!**

Join volunteers from our Rochester Family of Parishes and area churches to help with the Clinton River Watershed Council’s Clinton River Clean-up on Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 9am-11:30am, in the City of Rochester. This is a great service opportunity for families and for students to get service hours. Registration required and more information at <http://www.stirenaeus.org/clinton-river>.

