

## Care for Creation– Week Three: In Honor of Earth Day



I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
- Isaiah 43:19

### Contemplation & Compassion

In a 2020 address, Pope Francis emphasized contemplation and compassion as two irreplaceable ingredients for fostering integral ecology. A key value of *Laudato Si'*, it refers to the idea that precisely because of our interconnectedness — with each other, with all other creatures and with creation as a whole — we are tasked with working together in mutual relationship with the created order to create harmony. This Earth Day, we invite you to “discover the tenderness of God’s gaze[1]” on yourself, and on your surroundings, and allow your contemplation to lead you to compassion and action.

### Introductory Contemplation

In loving awareness with Creator, pause, and allow your spirit, mind and body to receive the gifts of creation. Consider a scene you have experienced, one where Earth’s goodness, truth, beauty and love have brought you to life. Is there a national park, a place in your own backyard or a destination you hope to visit? What sacred place captures your soul? Let the image unfold. Settle and breathe.

How have you been drawn into union with Earth, God and others by perceiving creation’s sacred space?

How might you return creation’s loving awareness to the Earth, God and others?

### Prayer for Compassion

God of dust from which we come:

In the silence of contemplation, help us hear the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor as one cry, unified, amplified. May we hear the cry of your creation calling out to be seen from every corner; may our practice of deep listening bring us to see all those creatures whose dignity is routinely ignored. That, in our seeing, we might be moved from indifference to compassion, domination to collaboration, from ‘mastery over’ to harmonious coexistence.

Mother God of land and sea, source of all that is:

We pray for our practice to bring us deeply into a compassionate relationship with the earth, our common home and with each of the interconnected ecosystems which contribute to the delicate web of our livelihood.

Gracious giver of all life:

As our contemplation leads us to compassion, may that compassion be the breath of every action we take. Let us glorify the sacredness of both the natural world and the world’s poor, that your resplendence may radiate.

In your name we pray, AMEN.

*From Catholic Health Association of the United States-<https://www.chausa.org/environment/earth-day/2022-earth-day-resources>*

### **DID YOU KNOW? Water = Life**

The villages of the Morogoro and Masasi areas of Tanzania, in southeastern Africa, are in critical need of clean and safe drinking water. Villagers often collect water from standing ponds, which are fraught with disease-causing organisms. These ponds are the same use by local wildlife for everything imaginable. In 2019, Divine Savior helped sponsor a well in Tanzania with the support of generous parishioners Mary Jo and Mark Verke, who have regularly travelled (for 19 years) to Tanzania to follow up with the wells in villages in that area. This year, they are planning to visit again and hope to bring the promise of yet another well for fresh water! After all Masses on April 23-24, Mary Jo and Mark will gladly answer questions about this project and accept any donations in the church vestibule. For more information please contact Mary Jo at [maryjoverke@gmail.com](mailto:maryjoverke@gmail.com) or 916-878-9337.

# Blessings & Congratulations!



**Blessings to our Catechumens and Candidates who  
celebrated full initiation in the Catholic faith at  
Divine Savior this Easter!**

Brianda Angulo, Lucy Ayala, Tyler Ayala, Lucas Carrasco,  
Kaylee Decker Nyman, Rosy Ellis, Roxy Ellis, Jaren Esquivel,  
Mark Hintze, Cody Riddle, Rita Torres, and Patsy VanCleve

**Blessings to those receiving  
First Communion in our parish!**

Alicia Alvarado, Nina Alvarado, Jimi Asebiomo,  
Darren Apiado, Chantal Apiado, Keo Cantorna,  
Lexie Carrasco, Brooklynn Carrasco, Drew Egge,  
Jonny Egge, Brandon Estrada Hernandez, Michael Gehres,  
Kristen Gehres, Emma Grosjean, Balian Malmberg,  
Maryn Martinez, Nolan Martinez, Karina Rodriguez,  
Madeline Thompson, Leila Valencia, Miranda Vasquez,  
Angelica Viehland, William Wall, and Gabriel Wall



*First Communions will be  
celebrated at the 9:30am &  
11:30am Masses next weekend  
and 11:30am on May 15th.*



*Confirmation will be  
celebrated with Bishop Soto  
next Sunday, May 1st at 4pm.*

**Blessings to our young people celebrating the  
Sacrament of Confirmation  
at Divine Savior next Sunday!**

Daniel Apiado, Tofi Asebiomo, Jeremy Boyd,  
James Feeney, Alyssa Fragnito, Irvin Lopez,  
Luka Nash, Trevor O'Connor, Rebecca Lynn Paddock,  
Allyson Puyot, Maria Razo Rodriguez, Bevin Rogers,  
Alejandro Silva, Maggie Stephens, Tyler Swenson,  
Gabriel Turner, Alexander Viehland,  
Ashley Willgrubs, and Matthew Willgrubs

**Special thanks to all who helped to plan, prepare,  
participate and share in the many wonderful parts  
of Holy Week and Easter at Divine Savior!**