

Bishop's Challenge Lenten Calendar for Care of God's Good Creation

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Being eco-wise is about celebrating creation, being good stewards with what we're given, and passing on those values to our children.			March 5 Ash Wednesday Gather friends for an intimate and cozy dinner at home and ask them to bring a dish rather than going out to a restaurant.	March 6 Put a stop to unsolicited mail - sign up to opt out of pre-screened credit card offers Go to optoutprescreen.com	March 7 Replace incandescent bulbs with LED's. LED technology is 83% cheaper than incandescent and 32% cheaper than fluorescent lighting.	March 8 Family Movie night: Watch a movie with a nature theme such as <i>A Bug's Life</i> , <i>Ferngully: The Last Rainforest</i> , <i>Fly Away Home</i> , or <i>Hoot</i> .
March 9 Psalm 24: 1 The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof. The world and those who dwell therein...	March 10 About 480 billion plastic water bottles were purchased globally in 2016. Have each family member choose and use their own reusable water bottle	March 11 Electricity is produced in NJ by natural gas - 50%, nuclear power - 45% solar energy - 5%. Save costs and power by turning off lights when you leave a room.	March 12 Do you have a library card? Take a family adventure to the library. Start using the library to share books instead of buying them. Or use Libby to download books.	March 13 Greenhouse gas output comes from buildings. Lower the thermostat to 68 & put on a sweater and warm socks to stay warm and cozy.	March 14 We're composting food waste at APLC. Create a compost in the corner of your backyard for some great fertilizer come planting time.	March 15 Storytime: Read a picture book together such as <i>Seeds of Change</i> , <i>Wangari's Gift of the World</i> , or <i>Sea Turtle Scientist</i> .
March 16 Daylight Savings Genesis 2: 15 The Lord took man and put him in the garden of Eden to till and keep it.	March 17 It takes 50 years for a Styrofoam cup to decompose. Use a reusable cup for your morning coffee.	March 18 Declutter and donate used items in good condition to be re-used and recycled to your favorite charity.	March 19 Older readers - have you read <i>Hoot</i> by Carl Hiaasen or <i>Gathering Blue</i> by Lois Lowry?	March 20 Time to purchase a new toothbrush? Check out a bamboo toothbrush and maybe skip the plastic one.	March 21 Millions of plastic straws head to landfills or wind up in our oceans. When eating out, tell the wait staff you do not want a straw.	March 22 If you just need something temporarily, ask your friends if you can borrow it. Think books, camping equipment, a ladder.
March 23 Psalm 104: 10-13 You make springs gush forth ...the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.	March 24 Save money and energy by making sure your home is well insulated. Low cost caulks, sealants and repairs can improve your home's insulation.	March 25 Reduce The first step to reduce is not to purchase items impulsively. Do you really need that?	March 26 Reuse Start replacing disposable items with reusable ones. Think food storage, ink cartridges, and batteries.	March 27 Recycle Be creative and give new life to old items. DIY.com, Pinterest.com have tons of ideas. Have you shopped in your local thrift store?	March 28 The average family uses 24 rolls of plastic wrap each year. Instead, use containers for left-over food.	March 29 Planting a garden? This year, consider getting a rain barrel to collect rain water for watering your plants.

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<p>March 30 Hymn 835 All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small, all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all. WOV 767</p>	<p>March 31 The US pulp & paper industry is the second largest consumer of energy. Save energy, water, and trees by going paperless whenever possible.</p>	<p>April 1 Avoid running to the grocery store for one or two items by keeping a running grocery list of what you need and stocking your kitchen weekly,</p>	<p>April 2 Shower or bath? Either way, treat yourself to a real loofah, a real sponge or a bamboo brush rather than a plastic scrubby.</p>	<p>April 3 Turn off water while you brush your teeth, Each person can save 2,400 gallons of water annually by turning off tap - brush, then turn on water to rinse.</p>	<p>April 4 Do you have usable items in good condition that you want to just give away? Put outside and list on Freecycle.com or donate to your local Goodwill,</p>	<p>April 5 Check mcianj.org for Mercer County Hazardous Waste and Electronic Recycle Day Dempster Fire School 350 Lawrence Station Road</p>
<p>April 6 For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping, future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God. ELW 679</p>	<p>April 7 Stop using paper napkins and pretty up your table with colorful cloth napkins you can wash and re-use.</p>	<p>April 8 Improve your gas mileage by driving 5 mph slower on the highway, keeping your tires fully inflated, and not speeding off when the light changes.</p>	<p>April 9 Have you ever line-dried your sheets? Let them dry in the sun and fresh air and smell a difference. It's awesome!</p>	<p>April 10 Save energy and hot water by rinsing dishes in cold and washing dishes in hot. Wash your clothes in cold or cool water and wait for a full load.</p>	<p>April 11 Support your local farm stand and buy fresh, healthy foods that are not sealed in Styrofoam and plastic.</p>	<p>April 12 Family Movie Night: Green themed suggestions include Fern Gully: <i>The Last Rainforest</i>, <i>Over the Hedge</i> or WALL-E</p>
<p>April 13 Palm Sunday Give us wisdom and reverence to use the resources of nature so that no one may suffer from our abuse of them... ELW p. 80</p>	<p>April 14 Do you know how to sew on a button or hem a pair of pants? Teach your child how to sew simple repairs to extend the life of their clothes.</p>	<p>April 15 Recycle the front picture part of greeting cards. Send to St Jude Ranch for Children 100 St Jude's Street Boulder City, NY 89005</p>	<p>April 16 Billions of disposable plastic razors are thrown away each. Switch from a plastic disposable razor to a metal safety razor.</p>	<p>April 17 Maundy Thursday Plan meals ahead to avoid food waste and save money on your grocery bill. Home cooking is always delicious.</p>	<p>April 18 Good Friday Want to give someone a gift? Consider making something homemade. That really touches the heart!</p>	<p>April 19 Holy Saturday Instead of spending money on "things" enjoy the friendship of family and friends by spending money on "experiences".</p>
<p>April 12: Easter Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer. Grace our table with your presence... ELW 181</p>		<p>Remember the first key to sustainability is... Conservation Conservation Conservation</p>	<p>The second key to sustainability is: Changing some specific habits of our personal lifestyles.</p>		<p>"Being environmentally friendly is also good economics as 9/10 times they're the frugal option." Tsh Oxenreider</p>	<p>Created by the APLC Green Team Updated 2025 for the NJ Synod Bishop's Challenge</p>