

Laudato Si'

St. Patrick's Creation Care Newsletter

Vol. 1. No. 1. Winter 2021

Pope Francis addresses his encyclical letter *Laudato Si'* (Praise Be to You, Lord!) to "every person on the planet," for we all share a common home. He calls the ecological crisis a "moral and spiritual challenge" and urges that this be the "time to act."

Prayer ~ Education ~ Advocacy ~ Action

Pray

God of all creation, renew us in your healing love to water the earth,
and to nurture one another so all may flourish.

Educate

RECYCLE MORE. RECYCLE RIGHT.

RECYCLING IN THE TIME OF COVID

According to the former administrator of the EPA, Andrew Wheeler, this health emergency crisis we are living in, is a time to recycle more, not less! In a short EPA video, Administrator Wheeler warned that "there is a critical need for all raw materials in the manufacturing supply chain, especially paper and cardboard boxes." Because of the pandemic and, as a result of it, more people are ordering out and shopping on-line. Consequently, this creates a need for additional containers. Moreover, many businesses which had generated boxes for recycling are closed, making paper and cardboard recycling even more essential. Visit this site for guidance on recycling practices: <https://www.epa.gov/recycle/reduce-reuse-recycle-resources-students-and-educators>

BUT...CLEVELAND THROWS OUT ALL RECYCLING!

It is true that for some time, Cleveland Division of Waste has not been recycling materials set out in residential blue bins. Nevertheless, it is still vital that we continue sorting and placing recyclables there because this is a sustainable AND spiritual discipline. Cleveland will resume recycling our waste in the spring of 2021. Learn more at <https://cuyahogarecycles.org/cleveland>

WHAT ABOUT PLASTIC BAGS? Can I recycle them?

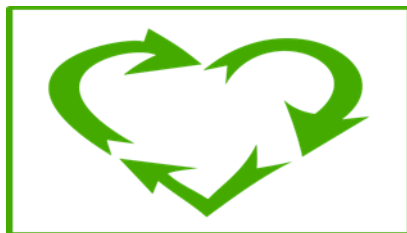
YES, you can, and that is the second best choice for single-use plastic.

Plastic bags and the following other plastic wraps can be recycled:

bags that newspapers come in, dry cleaning plastic wrapping, bread and produce bags, plastic wrappings on paper towels, toilet tissue, water bottle cartons

All these plastic wraps can be recycled with your grocery bags at:

Marc's, Giant Eagle, Target, Loew's, Walmart, and Dave's Markets



Did You Know ?

Recycled plastic wrap is transformed into pellets, called **nurdles** and can be used as a raw product just like virgin plastic. One product of this recycled film is used to make home decks! However, these nurdles have a challenging environmental impact which needs to be addressed as well.

The Challenge

Due to fracking and the subsequent low-cost of fossil fuels, manufacturers of plastics are choosing to make significantly more NEW plastic than they are **recycling**. Also, the plastic pellets, which are either made from recycled plastic wrap or virgin plastic wrap, are falling off transport vehicles and from boat mishaps. Also, the nurdles are “hosed” into manufacturing plants, and many nurdles fall to the ground, making their way into our streams, lakes, and oceans.

Operation Clean Sweep is a program of the plastics industry association (PLASTICS) and the American Chemistry Council's Plastics Division, designed to prevent resin pellet, flake and powder loss from its factories, and help keep this material out of the marine environment. In 2019 the plastics industry unveiled changes to strengthen this voluntary program, but environmental groups monitoring the issue question industry self-regulation and call for a tough zero discharge standard.

"While [this] announcement is fine, it is voluntary and doesn't come close to what is going to be required to ensure plastics companies stop discharging plastic into waterways across the country," said Julie Teel Simmonds, a lawyer with the Center for Biological Diversity.

REUTERS/TYRONE SI
Nurdles show up everywhere. In this photo, volunteers are cleaning nurdles on the coast of Hong Kong's Lamma island in 2012. Hundreds of millions of the plastic pellets were dumped when containers were knocked off a vessel during a typhoon.



BOOK RECOMMENDATION

Inconspicuous Consumption: The Environmental Impact You Don't Know You Have by Tatiana Schlossberg

Interesting fact: 70% of the average US person's clothing is derived from fossil fuels; micro plastics from our clothes get into our waterways and food chain.

I read this book when it came out two years ago, and I learned a lot. One surprising thing was how much energy we consume by using the internet (which I'm doing right now) because the "cloud" is actually huge warehouses of energy-guzzling super computers which generate so much heat that they require 24/7 air conditioning to run. It's the kind of reading that will leave you feeling awful. But as people who care about protecting creation for future generations, there's a lot in there that's important to know. Individual habits will not change the climate crisis, but **until we understand how our individual habits are part of systems, we won't see the bigger picture of what needs to be changed.**

by Brian Stefan-Szittai, member of St. Pat's Creation Care Team

Advocate

To inquire when recycling will resume and to lobby the city to get a contract with a recycling company ASAP, you can contact the city of Cleveland's sustainability office sustainability@city.cleveland.oh.us, or contact the waste department directly at (216) 664-2455.

Act

In the meantime....

There is a recycling dumpster for paper and cardboard at the western parking lot of St. Patrick's (Whitman Ave. entrance). Some people, through the kindness of their family and friends, take it to other suburbs which do recycle.

<https://www.rivervalleypaper.com/>



Upcoming Events/News

Lenten Litter Pilgrimage. Saturday, March 13, 2021, 10-11:30. Check out the Creation Care Ministry Team news at the St. Patrick's website or email Creation.Care@stpatrickbridge.org

Lenten Creation Care Calendar. Print a calendar from the parish website or take one from the Oasis Table in church, which includes creation care reflections on the Sunday readings and suggested activities for your Lenten devotions.

St. Patrick's Creation Care

<https://stpatrickbridge.org/creation-care/>

CLIMATE NEWS

Reasons to Respond	Reasons for Hope
<p>In recent years, a higher percentage of precipitation in the US has come in the form of intense single day events</p> <p>Ohio temperatures are projected to rise 7-12 degrees in winter and 6-14 degrees in summer by the end of the century if current trajectory of climate continues.</p> <p>At least 8 million tons of plastic debris end up in our oceans each year.</p> <p>Extreme weather events contribute to transforming people around the globe into climate refugees</p>	<p>Cleveland Climate Action Plan has set a green building and energy efficiency goal of reducing commercial and residential use 50% by 2030</p> <p>Cleveland Climate Action Plan has a landfill diversion rate (via recycling and reduction) of 50% by 2030</p> <p>Cleveland received a grant to explore changing from a linear economic model, (“TAKE,MAKE,WASTE”) to a “Circular Economy” (“REUSE REPAIR, REGENERATE”). See sustainablecleveland.org for more information.</p> <p>City of Cleveland is compliant with the global covenant of mayors for climate and energy</p> <p>More than 20 people from four local churches volunteered for the December 2020 Advent Litter Pilgrimage organized by St. Patrick’s Creation Care Team</p>

About St. Patrick’s Creation Care

St. Patrick’s Creation Care Ministry was formed after studying Pope Francis’ 2015 encyclical *Laudato Si’: On Care for Our Common Home*. We welcome interested parishioners to join us at our monthly meetings and in related parish activities.

We meet the second Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm on Zoom.

Contact Creation.Care@stpatrikbridge.org or leave a message at 216-631-6872.