



The Boston Catholic
Climate Movement

The Boston Chapter of the Laudato Si' Movement

SEASON OF CREATION PARISH GUIDE: WATER RESOURCES

September 1 – October 4, 2026

2026 Theme: "Living Water" · Ezekiel 47:9, 12



A practical companion for Greater Boston parishes implementing the 2026 Season of Creation Celebration Guide, with a focus on water: prayer, formation, and local action.

OUR THEME

Living Water

Each year, the worldwide Season of Creation — from September 1, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, through October 4, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi — unites Christian communities in prayer and action for our common home. The 2026 theme, Living Water, is drawn from the prophet Ezekiel's vision of a river flowing from the sanctuary of God:

"Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows. There will be large numbers of fish, because this water flows there and makes the salt water fresh; so where the river flows everything will live. [...] Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear fruit, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing." — *Ezekiel 47:9, 12*



Ezekiel's river begins as a trickle at the temple threshold and grows, the farther it travels, into water deep enough to swim in — healing the Dead Sea itself and bringing fruit trees and fish wherever it flows. The 2026 Celebration Guide invites parishes to immerse themselves in that river: to recognize the damage already done to local waters, embrace our interconnectedness with them, and step in, deeper and deeper, as agents of their renewal.

"Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing." (Ezek. 47:12)

Water and the Sacraments

Catholics need no convincing that water carries grace. Every Baptism re-enacts entry into living water; every blessing with holy water recalls it. Pope Francis wrote that the Eucharist itself "joins heaven and earth" and that "water, oil, fire and colors are taken up in all their symbolic power and incorporated into our act of praise" (*Laudato Si'*, 235–236). A parish that prays seriously about water is following its sacramental life back to its source.



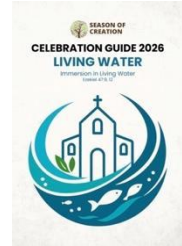
"We need but pause to think of the relationship between our own bodies and the environment."

(Laudato Si', 155) — consider renewing baptismal promises with water drawn from a named local stream, harbor, or reservoir.

IMPLEMENTING THE SEASON

A Game Plan for the Parish

Following the structure of the [Season of Creation Celebration Guide](#) — prayer, formation, and concrete action — here is a four-week framework any parish can adapt, scaled to whatever capacity your Green Team, religious ed program, or pastoral council has on hand.



Generations meet at the water — a font, a well, a river.

Week 1 (Sept. 1–7): Pray

- ☐ Open the season with the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, Sept. 1 (or the nearest weekend), using the Mass for the Care of Creation or a bulletin insert on the Ezekiel 47 reading.
- ☐ Post the Living Water Scripture (Ezek 47:9, 12) at the entrance, alongside a holy water font, with a one-line reflection card.
- ☐ Invite the RCIA, religious ed, or a youth group to pray a decade of the Rosary for the healing of a named local water body.

Week 2 (Sept. 8–14): Learn

- ☐ Host a parish forum or bulletin series on local water issues: combined sewer overflows, PFAS in drinking water, flooding, or the health of a nearby river or harbor.
- ☐ Invite a speaker from a watershed association (see Resources, p. 4) to a parish hall evening or coffee-and-donuts table.
- ☐ Screen or discuss *Laudato Si'*, chapter 1, section II (“The Issue of Water”, §27–31), in an adult faith formation session.

Week 3 (Sept. 15–27): Act, Locally

- ☐ Register the parish for a river or beach cleanup (Charles River, Mystic River, Neponset, or a local harbor — see p. 4).
- ☐ Audit the rectory, school, and hall for water use: fix leaks, install low-flow fixtures, check irrigation timing.
- ☐ If the parish has grounds, plant a rain garden, rain barrel, or native plantings that reduce stormwater runoff into the parish’s own watershed.

Week 4 (Sept. 28 – Oct. 4): Advocate & Give Thanks

- ☐ Write or sign on to a parish or diocesan statement supporting clean-water policy in Massachusetts (PFAS limits, lead service line replacement, combined sewer overflow remediation).
- ☐ Close the season on the Feast of St. Francis, Oct. 4, with a blessing of animals and a renewal of baptismal promises, drawing the line from font to creek to harbor explicit in the prayer.
- ☐ Send a parish-wide thank-you and a simple “what we did” recap — numbers (pounds of trash, gallons saved, attendees) help next year’s effort and make a good bulletin note for the diocese or BCCM.

Scale this to your parish. A single bulletin insert and one cleanup day is a complete, faithful observance — the four-week arc is a ceiling, not a floor.

RESOURCES

Massachusetts Water Conservation Organizations

Local partners for parish cleanups, speakers, advocacy, and watershed data — a starting point, not an exhaustive list. Confirm current event dates and volunteer requirements directly with each organization before scheduling a parish activity.

Charles River Watershed Association (CRWA)

Science, advocacy, and stewardship for the Charles River since 1965. Offers the annual Earth Day Cleanup (thousands of volunteers across all 80 miles of the river), water-chestnut canoe pulls, Volunteer Monthly Monitor water-quality sampling, and biological-monitoring trainings — several of which welcome parish or youth groups.

crwa.org

Get Involved: crwa.org/get-involved · Earth Day Cleanup: crwa.org/earthdaycleanup

Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA)

Protects and restores the Mystic River and its tributaries north and west of Boston. Runs herring-run monitoring, cleanups, and advocacy on combined sewer overflows — a natural partner for parishes in Somerville, Medford, Arlington, and along the Mystic corridor.

mysticriver.org

Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA)

The public authority providing wholesale water and sewer service to greater Boston, and a key player in Boston Harbor's decades-long cleanup. Publishes drinking-water quality reports and educational materials useful for a parish forum on where the parish's own tap water comes from.

mwra.com

Clean Water Action — Massachusetts

Statewide advocacy on drinking-water contaminants (PFAS, lead), plastics, and clean-energy policy, with a long record of organizing around the Commonwealth's environmental laws. A resource for parishes that want to take the advocacy step in Week 4 of the parish plan.

cleanwater.org/states/massachusetts

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) & Mass. Clean Water Trust

State agencies overseeing water-quality regulation and low-interest financing for municipal water infrastructure. Useful for understanding what is happening with a specific town's water system or a pending local project.

mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-department-of-environmental-protection

Catholic Climate Covenant — Season of Creation Resources

National USCCB-founded hub for liturgical, homiletic, and educational Season of Creation materials, including the annual Celebration Guide and bulletin inserts referenced throughout this parish guide.

catholicclimatecovenant.org/resources/season-of-creation-2026

A Project of the Boston Catholic Climate Movement

Boston chapter of the Laudato Si' Movement, bringing Laudato Si' and Laudate Deum to life in the Greater Boston Catholic community. Developed by Alexander Lee, SHOL Newton Creation Care Team. bostoncatholicclimate.org

"So where the river flows everything will live." (Ezek 47:9)



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