



# Home Rituals

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St. Ignatius Loyola Parish

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## Introducing Rituals into your Home.

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## More Summer and Home Rituals

I always remember the song “Summertime” from Porgy and Bess with the refrain “Summertime and the living is easy.” (<https://youtu.be/NghiBMn6ZJM> A version by the Met Opera.) A great little lullaby that seems to presage a wonderful and simple summer. Yet, as the musical unfolds, we find things are much more complicated. Still, this hopeful song in the midst of poverty and hard times simply exudes the wonder of family and of family love.



All the more, care for the land can become much more hopeful and prayerful when it is part of family life. In the development of a Laudato Si' Action Plan, Pope Francis puts the family as the first group. A video from the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet offers a good summary of this Action Plan. <https://youtu.be/koOZgKvRcAM>

The plan includes 7 goals, one of which is to develop an **ecological spirituality**. Summertime is a great time to begin developing this notion of prayer with and for the earth.

[Seasons of Creation](#) has many resources but one special one is

the “[Way of Beauty](#)”, an adaption of the Way of the Cross recrafted as the Way of Creation, 14 stations reminding us of God’s presence and action in creation.

Leader : *We adore You O Creator and we bless You*  
 All : *Because by Your Death and Resurrection, You have redeemed our World.*

**Word of God:** “In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless wasteland, and darkness covered the abyss, while a mighty wind swept over the waters” (Gen. 1:1-2).

**Reflection:** God created everything out of nothing. He created everything out of His love. It was the first visible expression of His love. His love is visible in His creation. He wanted to reach out to us, so He created us. The painting of Creation by Michelangelo in the Sistine Chapel is a gripping depiction of God’s longing to reach out to each one of us. Are we reaching out to Him?

**Laudato Si’:** “The Bible teaches that every man and woman is created out of love and made in God’s image and likeness (cf. Gen 1:26). This shows us the immense dignity of each person, “who is not just something, but someone”. He/she is capable of self-knowledge, of self-possession and of freely giving himself/herself and entering into communion with other persons...We were conceived in the heart of God, and for this reason “each of us is the result of a thought of God. Each of us is willed, each of us is loved, each of us is necessary” (65).

*Laudato Si’, mi Signore*  
 To You only, they belong,  
 None worthy to sing Your Name.

7





God's Glory revealed  
in the simple life.

St. Isidore the  
Farmer was  
canonized  
along with a  
four other  
Spanish saints:  
Sts. Ignatius of  
Loyola, Francis  
Xavier, Teresa  
of Avila and  
Philip Neri



### From a Rural Perspective

One of the loveliest things of summer is the fresh fruits and vegetables that can be found in the stores and in Farmer's Markets. Which got me to thinking of the spirituality of food and of growing food. Did you know that there is a special group dedicated to [Catholic Rural Life](#)? While directed towards those who make a living from the land, there's still a lot of wisdom and of prayer for us "city dwellers" so that we do not completely lose our roots with creation and with our agricultural heritage. For instance, they have a monthly calendar with blessings. [June's Blessing](#) is for the Land. The opening prayer begins:

*Loving Creator, show us how to*

### More Rural Life & Spirit

Being from the city it never occurred to me that there might be special saints for those of the country. Ever heard of [St. Isidore the Farmer](#), patron of farmers? Although life on the farm may not be as simple as the days of Isidore, still we all can be inspired by his sense of the dignity of work as well as his ability to simply be with God while plowing the fields. Catholic Rural Life has a

### Cookbooks and More

Nothing seems to bring us deeply into another culture than food. All the more to look at CRL members' [Cooking for Christ](#). Imagine a cookbook that follows the liturgical calendar. I can only imagine. That and a [Rural Life Prayer Book](#) and a [Rural Life Celebration Guide](#). Someone has been hard at work collecting bits of the culture and of a special relationship with God.

*be good stewards of the land; give your blessing on every part of it — the soil, waterways and landscape. Together these contain the elements of life entrusted by You to our care.*

*Remind us of your constant love. Bless us with favorable weather, abundant crops and a vigorous community of life around us in all directions: East, West, North and South.*

Follow [this link](#) for the whole blessing ritual, something you and your children may want to do in your own backyard.

While you may find this blessing new and refreshing, not everything is so different. [July's Blessing](#) is for visitors

novena for this saint if you would like to watch and pray along. <https://catholicrurallife.org/virtualnovena/>

Did you know that June is National Dairy month? Find out more at <https://catholicrurallife.org/national-dairy-month-june-2021/>.

Have you ever thought about the ethics of food? There's a whole section of Ethics of Food

and guests. How many of you look forward to having a visit from family and old friends. Using this prayer, you can welcome those folks and make them feel even more at home. The closing prayer for July begins:

*O wondrous God, you are never far away. Again and again, you reveal your presence among us. Look with favor on our guests, who during their stay with us have opened our eyes to the mystery of your love and grace. Like our ancestors in the bible, we have received these guests through the fellowship of table: food, drink and sharing.*

See the whole calendar [here](#). <https://catholicrurallife.org/resources/spiritual/calendar-of-blessings/>

and Agriculture at <https://catholicrurallife.org/category/agriculture/>.

And as one might expect, there's a section on Education and Action that speaks to the issues of Climate Change, Food and Justice, and a Just Food System. Check out their list of resources at <https://catholicrurallife.org/resources/education-and-action/>



## Climate Change and the Diocese of Columbus, Ohio

Yes, I know we missed Earth Day, but every day, especially summer time, is an opportunity to celebrate Earth Day. The Diocese of Columbus had a wonderful section on their web-site called “Care for Creation”. While much was planned by the Vatican for the 5 year anniversary of “Laudato Si’”, covid delayed the rollout by a year so we can still join some of the events.

On the Care of Creation page you can find a link to family activities, including prayers: <https://columbuscatholic.org/documents/2020/4/Prayer%20Suggestions%20for%20Care%20for%20Creation.pdf>

<https://columbuscatholic.org/documents/2020/4/Family%20Activities%20Care%20for%20Creation.pdf>

Family Activities: <https://columbuscatholic.org/documents/2020/4/Get%20Outside%20Game%20Care%20for%20Creation.pdf>

A nature related Bingo Card: <https://columbuscatholic.org/documents/2020/4/Get%20Outside%20Game%20Care%20for%20Creation.pdf>

As well as a whole lot more on that same webpage. Just keep scrolling down.

<https://columbuscatholic.org/care-for-creation>



## God in the Silence – Activities

I know that many of your children have been home throughout the year. And you’ve maybe run out of activities. Here’s something different, activities from the book **Shhh...God Is in the Silence.** <https://www.godisinthesilence.com/activities/> Yep, just a couple of coloring pages and connect the dots pictures. But look at the top of the page and see some

tips on how to teach your child to pray. These include a personal noise survey, praying with your children and creating space for silence. Of course you can also buy the book at <https://store.loyolapress.com/god-is-in-the-silence>

If you are at Loyola Press, might as well take the 3-minute retreat for yourself. This one is about [God’s Abundant Blessing](#),

perfect for summertime.

And, as mentioned before, there’s going to be a “Drawing God” contest on November 3rd, 2021. Details at [drawing-god.com](http://drawing-god.com). And yes, there is a book here as well.



## Still Searching for SUMMERTIME activities



No, the kids are still restless and bored, what else can we find to keep them occupied? Well Our Sunday Visitor has its own summertime book list for kids of all ages. <https://osvnews.com/2021/05/24/a-summer-reading-list-for-catholic-kids-of-all-ages/>. This list is quite different from Loyola Press. It includes titles like **The Hobbit** and **To Kill a**

**Mockingbird.** Now why would OSV recommend these books? Guess you’ll have to read the reviews.

Look below at the reviews to see some more activities, including a Summer Catholic Trivia Challenge <https://osvnews.com/2017/06/11/summer-catholic-trivia-challenge/> and the ultimate

Catholic road trips.

<https://osvnews.com/2018/06/10/just-in-time-for-summer-our-ultimate-catholic-road-trips/>

Think about it, why not stop at a shrine or a cathedral? You might be amazed at what you or your children discover.



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**Finding God in All Things**

If there ever was a saint for summertime it would have to be Francis of Assisi who recognized God's love through the beauty of creation. The feast of Francis is celebrated on October 4th and close to that date we often have a blessing of the animals. In honor of Francis' spirituality,

- What creature most reflects God's love to you?
- What part of creation do you find to be the biggest blessing?
- What prayer would you say to celebrate the wonder of creation?
- What can you do to promote Francis' care for the earth and care for the poor?

### Francis of Assisi

Pope Francis chose the name of Francis to honor this saint from Assisi, not the Jesuit saint from Xavier. Have you thought about why he might have chosen Assisi over Xavier?



It should be obvious with the publication of *Laudato Si'* that Francis sees the care of creation as an important part of his papacy. Yet it should be just as obvious that Francis sees the care of the poor as equally important.

Franciscan Media, which hosts a "Saint of the Day" website, has a wonderful little video describing Franciscan Spirituality. [https://youtu.be/3igYvnW\\_szU](https://youtu.be/3igYvnW_szU) Friar

Murray Bodo claims that, for Francis, creation is God's primary revelation, the primary form of scripture that Francis passed onto others. While Francis often pointed to the creatures and creation, he founded his religious community on the stories of scripture, on the example of Jesus' life and ministry. Still, there is something to be said about Francis' relationship with creatures and creation.

As part of a celebration of Francis of Assisi, you might want to start a building project. After his conversion Francis began rebuilding a small little chapel, now known as the "portuincula". This rebuilding is celebrated on August 2nd. A brief history and explanation of its importance can be found in this video <https://youtu.be/8GoM-ALfmJw> with Father Michael Cusato. Rebuilding the church, which he first assumed to be this chapel, really involves rebuilding the church by turning us back to the life of Jesus and turning us back to this relationship with creation.

So maybe you might want to "rebuild the church" with a small structure for your backyard, something made of popsicle sticks or even lego blocks. And, if this structure becomes a home for one of God's creatures, so much the better. It's just a little handmade reminder that God's church really is everywhere, even in your own backyard.

