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IDEAS TO CELEBRATE CREATION DAY

The annual celebration of “[Creation Day](#)”, also known as “Feast of Creation” or “World Day of Prayer for Creation”, happens on **September 1st** or the subsequent Sunday – which in 2026 is **September 6th**.

For starters, consider **inviting your local bishop** to your celebration, to help raise further awareness in your community about the importance of Creation Day.

Ideas for Holy Mass – New Vatican formulary

Parishes and communities are encouraged to **use the Vatican’s new “[Creation Mass](#)”** in their Creation Day celebrations (see Vatican [translations](#) to 6 languages for episcopal conferences, and [Lectionary readings](#)).

- Any priest may celebrate this new Mass on **September 1** (Monday).
- With the consent or instruction of the local bishop, it may also be celebrated on Sunday, **September 6**.¹
An alternative could be **September 5** (Saturday) during the day, also permissible to any priest.

Additional ideas:

- Celebrate the Mass **outdoors**, in the “Cathedral of Creation”, if at all possible (as Pope Leo did and explained when [celebrating](#) the first Creation Mass with the new formulary).
- Before you begin, read an **excerpt from Pope Leo’s [message](#)** for Creation Day 2025 (and/or Pope Francis’ 2015 [institution](#) of the World Day of Prayer), to contextualize the importance of Creation Day.
- Include Creation-related **hymns** throughout the service.
- During the **Penitential Act**, express lament for the destruction of God’s creation and repentance for our “ecological sins” (Laudato Si’ 8).
- For the **homily**, encourage your priest to include references to (1) the [biblical readings](#) of the Mass, (2) Creation Day’s symbolism (see [overview](#)), (3) the mystery of God as Creator, and (4) Sunday’s dual symbolism as the “day of both Creation and Resurrection”.
- Before the **recitation of the Creed**, encourage your priest to bring attention to the Creed’s proclamation of the Holy Trinity as Creator – “the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth”, Christ “through [whom] all things were made”, and the Holy Spirit, “the giver of life”.
- During the **Prayers of the Faithful**, prioritize Creation-related prayers.
- For the **Liturgy of the Eucharist**, use Eucharistic Prayer IV.
- Bring Creation into the celebration through other gestures; for example, including symbols from nature during **the offertory** to be taken to the altar alongside bread and wine.
- At the end, recite the prayer “[Guide our Patterns of Prayer](#)”, with a special intention for the ecumenical [process](#) elevating Creation Day to become a liturgical feast.

Ideas before or after Mass:

- **Pray the “[Via Creationis](#)”** (also known as “**Way of Creation**”), an increasingly popular prayer inspired by the Via Crucis format, to help your community ponder the mystery of Creation.
- Work with children or youth to set up an **artistic “Creation Scene”** symbolizing God’s creation of the world, or deliver Laudato Si’ [formation](#) in catechesis.

¹ Permissible for “pastoral advantage” (General Instruction of the Roman Missal, 374).

After concluding your Creation Day celebration:

- **Post photos and videos** on social media using the #CreationDay and #SeasonOfCreation hashtags.
 - **Send your testimony or ideas** for future Creation Day guides to CreationFeast@gmail.com.
 - Spend time also in **personal prayer** (see [ideas](#)) to make the most out of your Creation Day celebration.
 - Participate also in the extended celebration of the [Season of Creation](#) (Sept 1 - Oct 4), to take concrete action to care for creation.
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WHAT IS CREATION DAY?



The annual celebration of “Creation Day” on September 1, also known as “Feast of Creation” or “World Day of Prayer for Creation”, is the big celebration that inspires and nourishes the larger Season of Creation that flows from it. Inspired by a **rich liturgical tradition** of the Orthodox Church, it was later embraced by the World Council of Churches in 2008 and the Catholic Church in 2015.

Besides being a moment to repent for our sinful desecration of the gift of Creation and pray for its healing, the feast honors God as Creator and commemorates the **great mystery of the creation** of the cosmos (learn more about the feast’s [history](#)). In other words, this feast is not just about celebrating “Creation as the *created world*” that God gifted us, but most importantly it is about celebrating “Creation as a foundational *mystery*” of our Christian faith. In fact, as we celebrate the 1700 years of Nicaea in 2025, Creation Day is an opportunity to celebrate the Creed’s proclamation of our faith in the Triune God as Creator – in “the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth”, in Christ “through [whom] all things were made”, and in the Holy Spirit, “the giver of life”.

In a nutshell, Creation Day is a **moment to thank and praise the Triune God as Creator**. Given that most Christian churches have historically focused so much on God as Redeemer, this feast is an invaluable opportunity to celebrate God as Creator. This need was stressed by many Christian leaders, as Benedict XVI who once [said](#): “The Redeemer is the Creator and if we do not proclaim God in his full grandeur – as Creator and as Redeemer – we also diminish the value of the Redemption... The renewal of the doctrine of Creation and a new understanding of the inseparability of Creation and Redemption are of supreme importance.”

For more background about Creation Day and its potential to become a liturgical feast, see:

FeastOfCreation.com