**FEBRUARY 2019**



**Bulletin: February 3**

**Recycling is Costing Philadelphia**

The city used to get paid for processing recyclables. Now it must pay companies to take its recyclables.

Residents can help the city and our planet by reducing what they consume, reusing or repurposing items often, and recycling right. One key rule to remember: When in doubt, keep it out. Here are a few more tips from Carlton Williams, commissioner of the Philadelphia Department of Streets:

* Wash, rinse, and dry your plastics, aluminum, and steel containers. It is important to remove all food waste.
* Absolutely, positively, no plastic bags. Check instead with your local grocery store — many of them take plastic bags to be recycled, often into reusable bags.
* Put a lid on your outdoor recycling can — wet paper, cardboard, and other wet materials cannot be processed.
* Styrofoam is not acceptable; reuse it or put it in the trash.
* Focus on aluminum and steel cans and plastic containers, which represent 75 percent of the value of the materials collected by the city, yet only make up 7 percent of what we see in curbside pickup.

(Inquirer, 11/12/18)

At the bulk department at Weavers Way you can bring reusable containers for your dried goods, vinegars, olive oils, detergents, etc. One parishioner has been using the same two laundry detergent bottles for 4 years now!

**Our Social Justice Committee meets on the 1st Sunday each month after the 11:00 Mass. Come and share your ideas and suggestions for taking care of our common home! All are welcome.**

**Bulletin: February 17**

…A true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. (Laudato Si’, 49)

Pope Francis offers a prayer ~

God of love, show us our place in this world

as channels of your love

for all the creatures of this earth,

for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.

Enlighten those who possess power and money

that they may avoid the sin of indifference,

that they may love the common good, advance the weak,

and care for this world in which we live.

The poor and the earth are crying out.

O Lord, seize us with your power and light,

help us to protect all life,

to prepare for a better future,

for the coming of your Kingdom

of justice, peace, love and beauty.

Praise be to you!

Amen.

(Excerpt from *A Christian Prayer in Union with Creation*, Laudato Si’, 159)

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**Bulletin: February 24**

REUSABLE BAG JEOPARDY

**Test your environmental knowledge!** (Answers below)

1. The number of plastic bags the average American uses each year

2. 91% of this material is not recycled

3. One million of these are sold every minute

4. The average amount of time a plastic bag is used before being discarded

5. This country was the first in the world to ban plastic bags

(Source: Trash Academy [www.trashacademy.org](http://www.trashacademy.org))

A bill to ban single-use plastic bags in Philly will be introduced to City Council soon. If you support this, you can go to sc.org/no-plastics-philly to add your name to the petition. If you’re reading this online at the Holy Cross website, you can simply click here ► [sign our petition.](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScg6TUs2BgfH-qKI8jo5dj1pWrmaW7eaAm1JtQxWX77JtRwgA/viewform)

Using reusable checkout bags is a simple action to take in our efforts to be responsible stewards of our earth. Thanks for your efforts!

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Answers:

1. What is 365-500 bags

2. What is plastic

3. What are plastic bottles

4. What is 12 minutes

5. What is Bangladesh