



“Whether believers or not, we agreed today that the earth is essentially a shared inheritance whose fruits are meant to benefit everyone.”
(Laudato Si, 93)

We are aware of hunger in many places including our own community. We learn about healthy foods and enjoy a safe food production and delivery system in this country. But do we know where our food comes from and how much it really costs to move from the farm to our fork? How do we access, consume and waste foods that are in short supply and what do we understand about “eating lower on the food chain”? How might research into plant protein change the way we eat? The answers to these questions may have a dramatic effect on farmers in our own community.

“A historic flood in March 2019 left much of America’s heartland under water. Particularly hard hit were Midwestern grain farmers, and climate experts say storms of increasing intensity could be the new normal,” CBS News reported in July. Our own area of Wood County, which is 73% farmland, also was hard hit with rains during planting and harvesting times for the past two years. “Ohio 75,000 farms produce the food and fiber used by nearly 1200 food processors to create the products found on table across the country and the world,” according to USDA statistics. This is an industry already struggling to bounce back from the Chinese trade war and must now grapple with the realities of climate change that threaten to alter the future of farming forever.

PRAY/LEARN

For more about the historic flood, view this [23-minute video](#) from CBS News on YouTube titled “A Climate Reckoning in the Heartland.”

Inside Climate News, which is a Pulitzer Prize-winning, non-profit, non-partisan news organization dedicated to covering climate change, energy and the environment, has [a section dedicated to Agriculture](#).

Learn more about Farm to Table initiatives in our area. This [article from Ohio Magazine](#) profiles three families, including St. John XXIII parishioners Tony and Michelle Weber, who live in Wayne.

Talk to a farmer in your family, our parish or the community.

FAST/CHANGE

Consider a weekly menu that includes Meatless Mondays along with Fish Fry-days during Lent and beyond.

Buy fair trade coffee and chocolate to help agricultural cooperatives that grow these products adapt to and mitigate climate change on their farms. The [organization Fairtrade America](#) has helpful information.

Plant your own [Climate Victory garden](#) and support your local farmers market.

GIVE/VOLUNTEER

Once a month, volunteers from St. Aloysius prepare food and staff the soup kitchen of the [Helping Hands of St. Louis outreach](#) program of the Diocese of Toledo Catholic Charities. Contact Deb Feehan, via the Parish Office, if you want to volunteer.

[Heifer International](#) is a non-profit dedicated to ending hunger and poverty in a sustainable way.