**Prayer for Protection Against Fires**

“Almighty and eternal God, we ask Your protection against destroying fire. Fire is so very necessary for our existence, and yet, when it gets out of control, it can be more damaging than anything else. Keep our [homes](http://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=5867) and buildings and woods and fields safe from this scourge. Help us always to be most careful in our use of it. For then, if our [homes](http://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=5867) are destroyed by fire, we suffer more than ever.

We ask your fatherly protection on all those who are suffering because of these wild fires….for the firefighters and rangers, those who have lost their homes and those who fear the loss of their homes. We pray particularly for those filled with inconsolable fear, especially the very young and the very old.

Guide decision makers that they might work cooperatively for the good of all. Keep emotions calm….guide parents as they protect their families. May both friends and strangers open their hearts and homes to those seeking refuge.

Give us, too, we humbly pray You, a saving fear of the fires of passion, and the help of Your [grace](http://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=5305) to control them. Help us also to fear the fires of hell, that we may always keep away from serious sin, and live lives of goodness and virtue, through [Christ](http://www.catholic.org/clife/jesus) our Lord. Amen.”

**A Reading From the Book of Genesis (1, 6-12)**

Then God said, "Let there be a dome in the middle of the waters, to separate one body of water from the other." And so it happened:

God made the dome, and it separated the water above the dome from the water below it. God called the dome "the sky." Evening came, and morning followed--the second day. Then God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered into a single basin, so that the dry land may appear." And so it happened: the water under the sky was gathered into its basin, and the dry land appeared. God called the dry land "the earth," and the basin of the water he called "the sea." God saw how good it was. Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth vegetation: every kind of plant that bears seed and every kind of fruit tree on earth that bears fruit with its seed in it." And so it happened: the earth brought forth every kind of plant that bears seed and every kind of fruit tree on earth that bears fruit with its seed in it. God saw how good it was.

*Silence for reflection*

The attitude that must characterize the way human acts in relation to creation is essentially one of gratitude and appreciation; the world in fact, reveals the mystery of God who created and sustains it. (*The Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 487)*

**Response Taken From Canticle of Creation (St. Francis of Assisi)**

For sister water,

which is very humble, useful, precious and chaste:

**ALL: Blessed be you, Lord, for creating her!**

For sister mother earth,

who produces various fruit

with colored flowers and herbs

**ALL: Blessed be you, Lord, for creating her!**

For the forests which purify the water and air,

protecting the soil from erosion and strong winds

and preserving biological diversity

**ALL: Blessed be you, Lord, for creating them!**

For streams and rivers,
for the springs and rain,
for the seas and oceans:

**ALL: Blessed be you, Lord, for creating them!**

TIME FOR SHARED PRAYER, ESPECIALLY MENTIONING THE NAMES AFFECTED BY THESE FIRES IN COLORADO

Let us pray together with the words of the Psalm:

Sing to the LORD a new song;
   sing to the LORD, all the earth.

 Sing to the LORD, praise his name;
   proclaim his salvation day after day.

Say among the nations, “The LORD reigns.”

 The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved;
   he will judge the peoples with equity.

 Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;
   let the sea resound, and all that is in it.

Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them;
   let all the trees of the forest sing for joy.

 Let all creation rejoice before the LORD, for he comes,
   he comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world in righteousness
   and the peoples in his faithfulness.

(Psalm 96,1-2.10-13)

Let us pray:

Heavenly Father, you desire only what is
of benefit for your people.
We humbly pray,
send down rain upon our land. Quench the
dryness and remove further danger of heat
and fire to vegetation, homes and land.

Give protection to your people until relief comes.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen

ALTERNATIVE PRAYER IN PRIVATE:

Father our creator and great gardener of the world,

Tender of trees, of the field and the grass,

Keeper of forests, woodlands and wide-open plains,

Fullness of the waters, the One who vests our Earth in its blue breathing veil,

We ask you your blessing on each of us and upon all who have the power

To change our destructive ways;

We ask your blessing upon our commitment to preserve life for all humanity

and for the entire Earth Community.

Bless the Earth and bless us your creatures, the temples of Your Holy Spirit.

Through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord.

**Amen.**