



# The Twelve Gardens of Stewardship

*Applying Christian Stewardship to Every Area of Our Lives*

## A NOTE TO PASTORS:

The Archdiocese of Seattle Catholic Schools department has worked closely with the office of Parish Stewardship to develop curriculum suggestions based on 'The Twelve Gardens of Stewardship,' a concept developed by Bishop Robert Morneau of the Diocese of Green Bay, which helps us apply Christian stewardship to every area of our daily lives.

We encourage you to help to foster Stewardship as a way of life by offering timely, coordinating support of this portion of your parish school's curriculum.

Below is suggested text, scriptures and meditations for the 'Twelve Gardens of Stewardship'. Our hope is that you and your staff find these useful for pulpit announcements, placing notices in your weekly church bulletin, and perhaps as a source of inspiration for homilies or 'Prayers of the Faithful.'

The 2009/2010 schedule of the 'Twelve Gardens' curriculum is a suggested proposal, so you may wish to have your staff verify your school's participation and 'Garden' focus each month before including an announcement in your bulletin. The scheduled focus for the month of March is the 'Garden of the Soul.'

Your staff is free to use the following graphic logo and text – and to **edit and adapt** the 'Garden' section, as appropriate.

You will find more information at the new Archdiocesan webpage: [www.seattlearch.org/gardens](http://www.seattlearch.org/gardens)

Also, the [Office of Parish Stewardship](#) is here to assist you in any way.

# Garden of the Soul

## SUGGESTIONS FOR WEEKLY CHURCH BULLETIN



### The Twelve Gardens of Stewardship

*Applying Christian Stewardship to Every Area of Our Lives*



Suggested title & logo  
for use in weekly bulletin

Suggested  
Introductory text



Being good stewards includes recognizing God's gifts in every area of our lives, using these gifts responsibly and sharing them in love and justice. The 'Twelve Gardens of Stewardship' is a concept that identifies twelve different areas of our everyday life in which we should be mindful of conducting ourselves within the will of God – or, twelve different 'gardens' which we should tend to and cultivate. Each month, our school (a grade in our school) will focus on one or more of these gardens. The Garden of the Soul is the focus for this month.

### Garden of the Soul

Suggested description of the Garden of the Soul is below - to edit and adapt as needed for your parish's weekly bulletin.

As people of faith, our ultimate desire is for our soul to attain the eternal life that God has promised to those who remain His sons and daughters. It is important for us to take time to care for our soul through prayer, worship, and actively maintaining our relationship with God. Tending to our souls should hold a place of highest priority. This month, our second grade students will learn how to tend to their souls through prayer, especially in the context of preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist.

## SCRIPTURE AND PRAYER MEDITATIONS

- **Parishioner Meditations - Cultivating our Garden of the Soul**

Do I regularly spend the time I want to with God in prayer? Do I take advantage of liturgies, retreats and other opportunities to grow in my spirituality? Do I use prayer, fasting, and almsgiving to cultivate my relationship with God? Do I allow myself quiet time to just listen to the 'still, small voice' of God?

- **Scripture**

"... Draw your strength from the Lord and from his mighty power." *Eph 6: 10*

"With all prayer and supplication, pray at every opportunity in the Spirit." *Eph 6: 18*

"But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit." *Jude 1:20*

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life." *John 3:16*

"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life." *John 5:24*

"Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day." *John 6:5*