



# Twelve Gardens of Stewardship

In Catholic Schools Curriculum

As proposed at the 2009 Theological Update Day

The Archdiocese of Seattle Catholic Schools department collaborated closely with the office of Parish Stewardship to develop curriculum suggestions based on 'The Twelve Gardens of Stewardship,' for presentation at the 2009 Theological Update Day. The resulting goal of this event was for our schools to include in their curriculums a grade and 'Garden' focus for each month of the school year.

**The suggested focus for March is the Garden of the Soul in the curriculum for grade two.**

Below are materials that you will find useful in implementing this goal. These tools are designed to be edited and adapted – if preferred - according to the specific curriculum needs of your school.

**Attached Contents:**

- **Prayer Service for Staff Meetings for Garden of the Soul**
- **Self Assessment for Staff Meetings for Garden of the Soul**
- **Online Curriculum Examples for Garden of the Soul**
- **Bulletin Board Idea for Garden of the Soul**
- **Suggested Notes for Parent Packets for Garden of the Soul**

You will find these materials and much more – including lesson plans and class activity ideas from educators who participated at the 2009 Theological Update Day - at the Archdiocesan webpage designated for incorporating the 'Twelve Gardens of Stewardship' into our Catholic schools curriculums: [www.seattlearch.org/gardens](http://www.seattlearch.org/gardens)



# Twelve Gardens of Stewardship

## Prayer Service for Staff Meetings

### **Garden of the Soul**

#### **Let us Pray:**

Lord,

You are the sower and reaper, the planter and harvester. We are eager to cultivate the gifts in the fertile soil of hearts open to You.

#### **Reading from Scripture:**

“Finally, 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*

#### **Meditation – How are we cultivating our gifts?**

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?

#### **Closing:**

Lord,

The seed that fell on rich ground yielded a harvest of thirty, sixty, or one hundred fold. May the seeds that You have planted in our hearts, in all the gardens where we are called to be good stewards, produce a rich harvest for building up Your Kingdom.

Amen.



# Twelve Gardens of Stewardship

## Self Assessment for Staff Meetings

*Thoughts on each of the Twelve Gardens within the Four Pillars of Stewardship:  
Prayer, Formation, Hospitality and Service*

### **Garden of the Soul**

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

When you think of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, ask yourself how much time and effort you have committed to your relationship to Him, so that it can be healthy and continue to grow.

#### **Prayer**

Think of when you devoted time to a prayer/ liturgical retreat or workshop, etc. How did that help you grow in spirituality? Do you plan to participate in a similar activity this year and next, to continue to grow as a disciple of the Lord?

#### **Formation**

What formation opportunities are available to you? Think of prayer forms, retreats, and devotions that are offered in your parish or parish school. Is there a spirituality or prayer form you would like to learn about that isn't being offered? Consider ways to research this interest and/or involve the appropriate person regarding offering this specific formation opportunity.

#### **Hospitality**

What are your unique talents and gifts? Think of the spiritual gifts the Lord has given you. How can you use those gifts to make sure that no other disciple that ‘knocks’ on the door of your church is left feeling unwelcome? How can you help your church to evangelize and bring souls to the Lord?

#### **Service**

Do you feel challenged to pray for others? Think of a time that you participated in a prayer offered by your parish. What other opportunities are available for you to pray for others - as a Christian, as a Catholic, as a parishioner?



# Twelve Gardens of Stewardship

## Online Curriculum Examples

### Garden of Soul

The Stewardship website, Learning to Give, offers a wide variety of lesson plans which may be used to incorporate the Twelve Gardens of Stewardship into your curriculum. Though philanthropy is the filter for many of these lesson plans, you will find a large number of appropriate choices and useful ideas. Here are instructions for reviewing a lesson plan that you may wish to draw from for your own use:

Path:

- Go to 'Learning to Give' [www.learningtogive.org](http://www.learningtogive.org)
- Click on top of page 'Find Lesson Plans'
- Select Keyword option
- Choose grade. If prompted to select a subject, you may wish to select 'All.' Select letter of a keyword to view lesson plans within that subject.
- To select the most appropriate lesson plan for your class, place the cursor over the view icons and review a brief summary of each plan.

**For the Garden of the Soul, if you choose [Grade 2 – Letter K for Kindness](#) , you will find the lesson: ['Kindness Just Because'](#)**

You are not limited to this selection, of course. You may find other lessons that fit your specific curriculum needs using the various search options available. Specifically, you may choose to adapt one of the many lesson plans that uses children's books and shift the focus to a book of children's prayers.



# Garden of the Soul

Grade 2

*Praying in faith is a strong tool for tending to the garden of our souls. It's easy for children to understand that prayer is a way to talk to God and that when we pray in Jesus' name, He is present with us. The student's preparation for the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist offer us an ideal opportunity to teach how both our individual prayers, as well as our group prayers, helps us to establish and nurture our personal relationship with God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.*

## Project

- Title the bulletin board; When We Pray, We Are Talking to God!
- On large pieces of paper, print and display a selection of Catholic prayers appropriate for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, according to Faith Formation guidelines. Some examples are shown below.
- On a large piece of poster paper, have students collaborate on a drawing of Jesus with children. (Alternative; teacher draw illustration or use purchased poster.)
- Give each student a paper titled 'My Prayer,' for them to write their personal message to God. Encourage illustrations and/or use colored paper.
- Post student's art and prayers on the board.

## Suggested Quotes

*“At all times, pray by the power of the Spirit. Pray all kinds of prayers. . . . Always keep on praying for all of God’s people.” Eph 6: 18*

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



## SUGGESTED NOTES FOR PARENT PACKETS

Parents appreciate knowing what their children are learning in school! Here are ways you might include the 'Twelve Gardens of Stewardship' concepts in your weekly packet of information to school parents.

Please feel free to use this suggested title, graphic logo and introductory text – and to **edit and adapt** the following 'Garden' sections according to your needs.



### The Twelve Gardens of Stewardship

*Applying Christian Stewardship to Every Area of Our Lives*

Suggested  
← Title

↓  
Suggested  
Introduction

Being good stewards includes recognizing God's gifts in every area of our lives and using these gifts responsibly, in love and justice – to ourselves as well as toward others. The 'Twelve Gardens of Stewardship' is a concept which identifies twelve different areas of our everyday life in which we should be mindful of conducting ourselves within the will of God. During the school year, our students will focus one or more of these gardens. This month, our second grade students will focus on the Garden of the Soul.

#### Garden of the Soul

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, the 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.