



# 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 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 April is the 'Garden of Creation.'

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 Creation

### 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 Creation is the focus for the month of April.

## Garden of Creation

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

In our secular world, we hear much about taking care of earth's environment. But being good stewards of the earth and God's creatures on it has always been humanity's particular duty. God gave us dominion over creation – the authority and the responsibility to take good care of the physical world that He gave us. This month, our kindergarten students will learn that we can take care of the earth and its forms of life by taking care of the environment.

### SCRIPTURE AND PRAYER MEDITATIONS

- **Parishioner Meditations - Cultivating our Garden of Creation**

All creation is a gift from God, and we are all called to revere and respect this gift. The Church teaches that misusing God's creation betrays the gifts He has given to us for the good of all humanity. How do I revere and respect God's gift of creation? Do I keep myself informed about environmental issues? Do I allow concern for the world to influence my purchasing decisions? What simple steps could I take to reduce the impact I have on the environment? Buying reusable grocery bags? Lowering my thermostat a little? Have I considered supporting organizations that protect land, wildlife, and the overall environment?

- **Scripture**

"The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament shows forth his handiwork." *Psalm 19:1*

"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it . . ." *Psalm 24:1*

"For by him all things were created; things in heaven and on earth . . . all things were created by him and through him." *Col 1:16*

"The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it." *Gen 2:15*