



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 April is the Garden of Creation in the curriculum for Pre-K and Kindergarten.

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 Creation**
- **Self Assessment for Staff Meetings for Garden of Creation**
- **Online Curriculum Examples for Garden of Creation**
- **Bulletin Board Idea for Garden of Creation**
- **Suggested Notes for Parent Packets for Garden of Creation**

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



Twelve Gardens of Stewardship

Prayer Service for Staff Meetings

Garden of Creation

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:

"God blessed them, saying: 'Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that move on the earth.' God also said, 'See, I give you every seed-bearing plant all over the earth and every tree that has seed bearing fruit on it to be your food.'"

Genesis 1: 28-29

Meditation – How are we cultivating our gifts?

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? Do I reuse and recycle the items that I use? What simple steps could I take to reduce the impact I have on the environment? Buying reusable grocery bags? Lowering my thermostat a little? Paying a little more for a recycled product? Have I considered supporting organizations that protect land, wildlife, and the overall environment?

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 Creation

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

When you consider the world and the good God who created it for us, do you see yourself as a loving caretaker of our environment? What are some things you can do to help ensure that God's creation remains unharmed?

Prayer

Reflect on a time when you saw a beautiful vista, sunrise or sunset, or gazed into a starry night sky. How did you feel about the awesome and mighty God that created such beauty? Have you ever felt drawn nearer to God when pondering His creation?

Formation

Think of articles and news reports you've read concerning our planet and resources. What have you learned about environmental protection? How can you educate yourself further regarding the care of our world, which is a gift from God? What can you do to help inform others about the dangers that face our world and the steps we can take to protect it?

Hospitality

Could your God-given talents be used to inspire others to not waste resources? What can you do to make it easier for others to conserve? What are some ways you could work with others to help protect the environment?

Service

Consider the environment and the unique gifts and talents God has given you. In what ways are you able to support organizations that protect the environment? In what ways can you 'reduce, reuse, or recycle?' In what ways can you help the world be the place God created it to be?



Twelve Gardens of Stewardship

Online Curriculum Examples

Garden of Creation

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
- 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 curser over the view icons and review a brief summary of each plan.

For the Garden of Creation, if you choose [Grade K – Letter E for Environment](#) , you will find 35 lesson plans under 'Environmental Stewardship.'

You are not limited to this selection, of course. You may find lessons that fit your specific curriculum needs in other keywords, as well.



Pre K & Kindergarten

Project

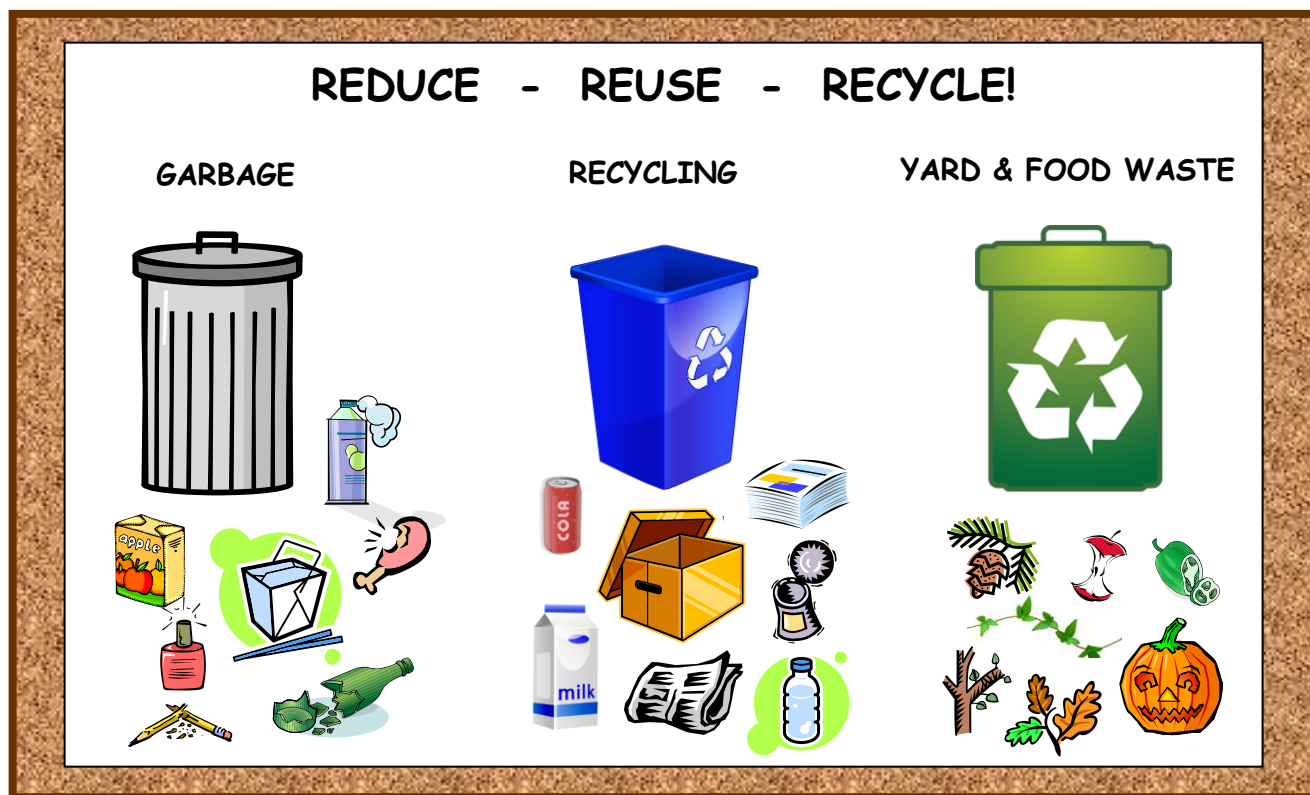
- Title bulletin board: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
- Draw and label three containers: Garbage, Recycling, Yard & Food Waste
- Review for the students the importance of recycling and various items that are appropriate for each container.
- Draw or collect pictures of these various items of trash, recyclables and vegetative yard/food waste. (Examples shown are FREE online from [Microsoft Office Clipart](#))
- Help the students identify the appropriate container for each item and have them place the drawings in the appropriate section.

Suggested Quotes

"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



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 introductive 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 April, our students will focus on the Garden of Creation.

Garden of Creation

Recently, we've heard much in our secular world 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, the kindergarten students will learn about ways we can take care of the earth and its forms of life by taking care of the environment.