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# Holy Family Community Garden

— Planting Seeds to Grow Connections  
Between School and Community —

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# Teacher Committee Members

Cheryl Meyer - Planning Chairperson

Jean Brenner

Bob Budzinski

Leah Coming

Debbie Feece

Jonelle Lesniak

Kathy McMillen

Caitlin Tucker

## *Community Garden Purpose...*

1. Provide numerous hands on, project based learning opportunities for students in and out of the classroom
2. Serve as the Junior High year-long community service project
3. Create connections between Parish and School
4. Social outreach to the local community

# Learning Opportunities

**Teachers will use as best fits their grade level standards.**

- Science
  - Where does our food come from?
  - How does our garden grow?
- Math
  - Area and perimeter calculations
  - Cost to produce
- Social Studies
  - Market value
  - Economics of farming
  - Food / diets from around the world
- Religion
  - Our role as stewards of God's creation

# Junior High Service Project

- Students will...
  - Research various garden vegetables
    - Soil, light, water requirements
    - Growing season - time from germination to food production
    - Guidelines for organic gardening
    - Nutritional value
  - Visit other local gardens for ideas / comparison
  - Assist in raised bed construction, fence installation, ground preparation
  - Communicate Garden Grand Opening to Holy Family Parishioners

# Connecting our Parish and School

- **Students will ...**
  - Host “Garden Open Houses” regularly throughout the installation process
  - Sell produce after weekend masses in the late summer and fall months
  - Regularly communicate what they learn through the Garden Project via the bulletin or weekend announcements
- **Parishioners will have opportunities (and be highly encouraged) to...**
  - Visit the Junior High classrooms and consult with students on planting and care techniques
  - Assist in caring for the garden - especially during months when school is not in session.
  - “Purchase” produce from students - good will donations will be accepted for produce

# Community Outreach Opportunities

1. Organically grown produce can be served to the students as part of the school lunch program.
2. Freshly harvested vegetables can be donated to the Holy Family St. Vincent DePaul Society food pantry.
3. Junior High Students in an Elective class can make soup with the vegetables to be served at the Catholic Worker's House.

# Who Will Care for the Garden?

## Parish

- Parish volunteers will care for the Garden during school breaks
- God Squad youth group members will help care for the Garden over the summer

## Students

- Classroom groups take turns watering and weeding
- Various Elective Classes will incorporate garden care
- Camp Invention and Vacation Bible School attendees will visit and help care for the Garden during summer.



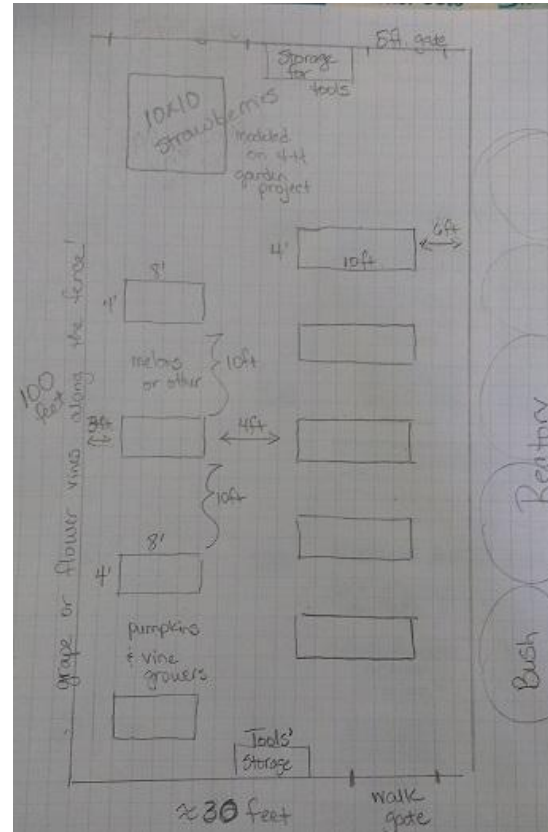
# Location and Size



- The tan rectangle represents a 100' x 25' garden space.
- Close to parking lots for ease of parishioner access.
- Can be connected to existing sprinklers.
- Ground drains well and receives plenty of afternoon sun.
- Does not interfere with other uses of property

# Proposed Initial Layout

- Initial layout provides over 500 square feet for planting.
  - Planting done in raised beds.
  - Space left between beds for pumpkins and vines to spread out.
  - bed for strawberries - modelled after 4-H - see link in notes section
  - Smaller beds used for a variety of vegetables.
  - Long, narrow bed against fence for grape vines and / or flowers.
- Ample space in walkways
  - Room for future expansion
  - Room for tool storage structures



# First Steps

1. Receive necessary approval for land use
  - a. Father Glenn
  - b. Parish Council
2. Verify liability coverage under Parish insurance.
3. Investigate necessity of county permit for a Community Garden
4. Obtain funding for fencing, raised bed materials, mulch, stone, soil, seeds, etc.
  - a. Student Council account balance
  - b. Grant funding
  - c. Parishioner donations of materials or funds
  - d. Community wide bake sale or pancake breakfast

# Second Steps

1. Test soil for pH and contaminants
2. Prepare land; ready for early Spring installation of planting beds
  - a. Kill off existing plant growth
  - b. Install chain link fence and gates around perimeter
  - c. Call 811 and have gas, electric, etc. lines marked before digging!!!
3. Obtain materials to work on construction of raised beds during winter season - Fr. Glenn with Elective Classes
4. Solicit gardeners from parish community for consultation and with sharing of expertise with teachers and students.

# Start - Up Costs

## Physical Space

- Chain Link Fence - \$1,000
  - Keep animals out
  - Protect growing space
- Raised Planting Beds - \$500-\$2,000
  - Define space for plants
  - Ensures soil is safe
  - Ease of care of plants

## Planting

- Soil, Rock, and Weed Barrier - \$1,000
  - Planting mix
  - Drainage and weed prevention
- Seeds / Starter Plants - \$500
- Hand tools -
  - Wheelbarrow
  - Trowels and small shovels
  - Watering cans
  - Hoes, rakes, etc.

# *Dreams of Future Growth and Expansion*

1. Year round production of vegetables
  - a. cold frames,
  - b. Hydroponics,
  - c. other methods.
2. Fruit trees planted on school grounds.
  - a. Grape vines along the fence of the garden space
3. Composting bins to recycle yard waste.

# Additional Resource Websites

<https://durablegreenbed.com/> - pre-fabricated raised beds, organic gardening approved, recyclable materials, discounted price list for non-profit organizations already obtained from company

<http://faswall.com/> - description of materials used by Durable Green Bed

<https://communitygarden.org/resources/10-steps-to-starting-a-community-garden/> - informational resources provided by the ACGA <https://communitygarden.org/>