

St Joseph's School and Parish Masithuthu Garden



Masithuthu Garden, Summer 2018

Thank you for volunteering to perform minor tasks in our garden. Whether you're here for an hour, for a week, or more, time spent here is greatly appreciated.

If you are performing hours for the school's Parent Involvement Program, only you will be asked keep track of your hours spent in our Garden (ie, not us). It's an honour system thing. 😊

Most days, I - or someone from the school - will drop by our *Masithuthu Garden* to oversee the garden maintenance – usually in the early mornings or later in the evenings. If there is anything that you find concerning or otherwise needing attention – or just to ask a question, feel free to call me (Jamie) at 250-391-1280.

It is our hope to have at least 1 to 2 persons per day in the garden. But of course, we will always welcome more. Once you decide what day or days you can offer, sign up on the calendar and enter your family name on the date. (More than 1 family can be in the garden at a time).

All of our plants have been very generously donated by parishioners, purchased as seeds, or harvested from last year's crop. Students planted vegetables for educational and social justice purposes. The harvest is intended to assist Doreen and Fred Keizer with the **9-10 Club**, or St. Vincent de Paul's **Social Concerns Office** (on View Street). Some of the items planted are intended for school-wide consumption. You can find a complete list on the following page.

Tools of the Trade

Most tools are there already: shovels, pitchfork, rakes and hoes, wheelbarrow and a plastic watering can (but there are no handheld trowels.) These may be found in the shed or inside the gate. Water spigots are located on the road side (*Area 2*), and the school side (*Areas 5 & 6*).

Timers will be set for watering the garden, and water every second day from 3:30—7:30 am.

Below is a "map" of the **Masithuthu Garden**. (It is also in an orange plastic duotang which can be found in the yellow bucket inside the storage shed.)

Produce	Intended For	Date Planted	Anticipated Harvest Week
potatoes	9-10 Club	June 1	-fall
sunflowers	Parish flower display committee,	June 1	-fall
tomatoes	9-10 Club	June 1	summer
pumpkin: <i>Big Max</i>	students	June 1	-mid Oct?; Halloween Howl
pumpkin: <i>Atlantic Giant</i>	students	June 1	-mid Oct?; Halloween Howl
corn: <i>Bodacious, 2 types</i>	school	June 1	-early fall (Welcome Back BarBQ)

**Burnside Road
Planted Garden Layout**

Compost Piles		Gate WATER SPIGOT	
Sunflowers	Area 3: 45x27 Solanums -potatoes	Area 2: 25x25 Cucubits (PUMPKINS) 4 hills BIG MAX (Pacific NW seeds) 4 hills BIG MAX (Aylmer Organics) 3 hills: Atlantic Giants (OSC)	Area 1 (25x25) Poaceae - Bodacious
	Area 6 (45x 25) Solanums -potatoes Area 7: 16x2, to 2x55	Area 5 (25x25) Solanums -potatoes	Area 4 (25x25) • tomatoes • • • unplanted area •
Sunflowers	WATER SPIGOT	Sunflowers	Gate/Entrance

Parking Lot

Duties for Masithuthu Gardeners

Caution: wherever you see twine, then underneath *should* be a growing plant. But keep in mind that sometimes they grow wherever the seeds may have landed ☺. And consider that most of the Garden was planted by students from K-7.

1. Hand water the 2 planter boxes outside the fence.

The planter boxes are not within the range of the sprinklers. So, they will need to be hand-watered daily. Use the hose with the attachment handle to gently spray water, or else use the plastic watering can.

2. Weed the beds.

Weeds should be kept from between the plants and growing in the pathways. Areas may include weeds growing immediately beside the fence, or in the pathways where nothing has been planted. Weeded plants may be tossed onto the Compost pile (Area 3).

3. Hill the potatoes.

As the potato plant grows, it is important that they be sheltered from direct sunlight, and to prevent them from being sunburned. Should this happen, the exposed skin will turn green, and will taste bitter. (*Some reports say the potato becomes poisonous if they are left at this stage.*)

Procedure:

Simply put, standing astride the plant, hoe (or pull) the dirt (from the middle of the row) up around the base of the plant in order to both cover the root and to support the plant. Bury any visible potatoes with the gathered, loose soil. You can use a hoe to pull up the soil.

We will need to hill potatoes every couple of weeks thereafter to protect our potato crop.

So, Now What?

If you are still interested in assisting us, sign up on the calendar on the main bulletin board outside of the office, or in the parish foyer. The calendar will be held in the duotang at the garden shed.

If you have any questions or experience any problems, please don't hesitate to call me at 250-391-1280.

Things to Remember Over the Summer:

1. Don't forget your water bottle, sunscreen and sun hat.
2. Washrooms may be found in either the parish or school, if open. (Please remove your gardening shoes before entering either the school or parish.)