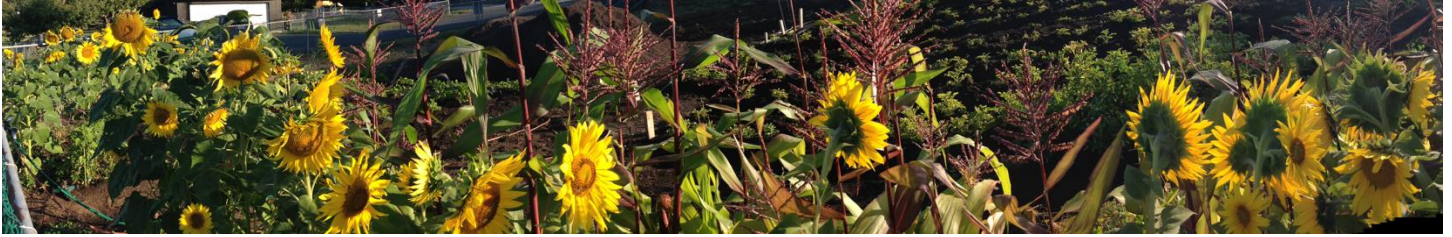


St Joseph's School and Parish **Masithuthu Garden**



Masithuthu Garden Q & A

What is the Masithuthu Garden? The Masithuthu Garden is located on parish property between the school and the rectory. It is approximately 3500 square feet. There used to be a building on the site which was removed 5 years ago at the direction of the Bishop Gary and Father William Hann, our former pastor.

How do you say Masithuthu? Mass -- see – to – to

Why is it called the Masithuthu Garden? 5 years ago, the parish entered a partnership with the Diocese of Mariannhill, South Africa, to assist in supporting the fledgling Masithuthukisane Organic Food Cooperative. Pope Francis put out the encyclical *Laudato Si*, and the school principal put out a call for classes interested in doing some growing. Why could we not do what *they* were doing in Mariannhill? It kinda grew from there. (It is also a shortened form of *Mass-see-to-to-kiss-on-nee*)

Who is the Masithuthu Garden? The Garden has primarily been a school venture, in full support of the parish goals. The parish provides the land and the water, and the students provide to manpower to plant the seeds. Parents and parishioners tend the Garden over the summer months. With the school being a member of the SJtW parish, it seemed relevant to support the parish outreach in this regard. The school actively supports the goals of the Garden, and appreciates immensely the work of the many volunteers. It truly is a School-Home-Parish venture☺

Has the school been involved with the Masithuthukisane project in South Africa? Some classes have had a penpal program; we have been in regular contact with the Diocesan Director Bheki Jama, sharing pictures and news, and contact though former parishioner Peter Daniels. We help raise and keep the awareness of our responsibility as a Catholic school to actively and prayerfully support one another.

Do the Bishop or Father Alfie get involved? Absolutely, from the planting in late-May to the harvest in the fall! There have even been the occasional Merlin sightings!

What do you grow and where does it go? This year we are growing potatoes, strawberries, pumpkins, corn, and sunflowers. Produce goes to the Soup Kitchen, the Social Concerns Office, or to various classes at the school.

What about theft? Aren't you concerned with that? For the first time, this spring someone borrowed our wheelbarrow. We have since installed a free *Bumblebee Habitat Security Systems*. Since the buzz is out, there has been no problem since.

Who looks after the garden – especially over the summer? Our volunteer gardeners come from the parish, the school (including some students, ranging from preschool to high school!) We have even had some of Knights of Columbus members volunteer to help on blustery and rainy days!

I don't garden, but it looks like fun. Can I help too? Absolutely. Every weed pulled by you is one less for us! There is no requirement for experience! And "service" or "volunteer" looks mighty good on a resume.

My child doesn't attend St. Joseph's School. Can they help volunteer? Of course!

I volunteered last year, but haven't heard anything? Do you not want me? Of course, we want you! But we never want to be an email nuisance either, so we recycle the lists of gardeners at the end of every growing season. We will keep only those on file who indicate they would like to do it again. Call us and we'll add you to our list.

Can I come to the harvest? Each mid-September, we have a school day set aside for Grades 3 and 4 classes to harvest the potatoes. Any supporting gardeners would be most helpful. It makes for a fun time!

How can I get in touch with you? Drop by the Garden and speak with any of our volunteers. Or:

Cell/text Jamie at: 250.391.1280

Email: sjvmasithuthugarden@gmail.com

Sign up at: <https://signup.com/go/VhqHYzt>

1819 Planted Garden Layout

Burnside Road

Compost Piles		<i>sunflowers</i>	<i>Gate</i>	WATER SPIGOT	<i>bzzz bumblebee habitat bzzzz.</i>	<i>sunflowers</i>
Sunflowers	Area 3	Poaceae <i>-corn (Oct) Bodacious</i>		Area 2	Area 1	Sunflowers
		Solanums <i>-potatoes</i>		Solanums <i>-potatoes (Sep)</i>	Solanums <i>-potatoes (Sep)</i>	
	Area 6	- Cucubits <i>-pumpkins (Oct) 13 hills</i>		Area 5	Area 4	Garden Tools
		<i>"sporadic Volunteer Sunflowers"</i>		Solanums <i>-potatoes (Sep)</i>	Solanums <i>-potatoes (Sep)</i>	
<i>sunflowers</i>		WATER SPIGOT		<i>sunflowers</i>	<i>Gate/Entrance</i>	

Strawberries

----- **Parking Lot** -----

Provided the parish offices are open, **Washrooms** located in the parish.