

BOYNE VALLEY CATHOLIC COMMUNITY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

May 2025 | ISSUE 4



MINISTRY OF THE MONTH: Community Garden

Organized by Mary Abdela and Vince Schehl

The primary focus of the Community Garden Ministry is to raise healthy vegetables, fruits, and herbs for fresh distribution to those in need by the local food pantries.

Our core value is helping those who are hungry. It is essential to our faith.

“For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger, and you invited me in.” – Matthew 25:35

Feeding the hungry is a gift, but it has benefits for the giver, too, not just in terms of community and compassion. The garden provides a sense of charitable giving to our volunteers.



Upcoming Garden Events:

May 18 at 12:00 PM:
Informal meeting to discuss plans and schedules (SM)

First week of June:
Laying weed barrier and setting up water lines

June 7:
Planting day!

Upcoming Parish Events:

Mondays at 12:00 PM:
Women's Bible Study (SA)

Tuesdays at 6:45 AM:
Men's Bible Study (SM)

May 4 at 5:30 PM:
Intergenerational Night

May 6 at 7:00 PM:
Finance Council Meeting (SM)

May 13 at 7:00 PM:
Cemetery Board Meeting (SA)

May 22 at 6:00 PM:
Holy Hour (SA)



How It Works: From Vince and Mary

In the garden, we prepare the soil and then plant many varieties of both seeds and seedlings, most of which have been started and donated by parishioners. Before planting, we have work bees and ask volunteers to help prepare and level the soil. Then we place weed barrier that minimizes the need to spend a lot of time pulling weeds. Volunteers also help place fencing and hoops to support the taller plants and vines of various vegetables. Our planting day is at the end of May or the first weekend in June.

After the plants and seeds are in, we set up an automatic drip watering system, which also includes fertilizer injection. So the maintenance throughout the growing season requires just a little monitoring, some pruning, and minimal weeding. Miscellaneous people offer their spare time to stop by and make that happen.

Then, at the right time, we establish a schedule for harvesting volunteers that facilitates fresh delivery on distribution days to the Good Neighbors Food Pantry in Boyne City and the Boyne Valley Food Pantry in Boyne Falls. Occasionally there is an excess of ripe goods on off days, and we will deliver those to the other pantries in the area, and/or set up a table at the weekend Masses at St. Matthew. Your free-will donation on those days is greatly appreciated and helps defray some of the cost of seed, fertilizer, fencing and other needs to keep the garden going.

Interested in getting involved?

If you would like to learn more about the garden, or would like to join our Ministry, you can contact Mary Abdella @231-582-7158, menjoab@gmail.com or Vince Schehl @231-330-5330 vinmike@msn.com

For anyone who might be 'on the fence' about getting involved, be assured that the work is not too difficult or taxing and the camaraderie with other volunteers makes the job fun!

Virtue of the Month - Prudence

One of the four cardinal virtues, prudence means to reason and act rightly in any given situation. It helps us to make good decisions based on truth and to practice all the other virtues.

Three Parts to Making a Prudent Decision:

1 - Ask and listen to understand the situation

2- Think about what a good thing to do would be

3- Act, and carry out our good decisions.

Prudence in Action

Taking the time to think about your options before making a decision.

Praying for guidance in making decisions and handling situations.

Asking for advice from a trusted person.

Carrying out the positive actions.

Prudence does not mean failing to accept responsibilities and postponing decisions; it means being committed to making joint decisions after pondering responsibly the road to be taken.
-Pope Benedict XVI