

The Garden Club, one of Church of the Assumption's newest ministries, meets monthly to help beautify the parish grounds. Roughly 12 members comprise the Garden Club and they work to weed and clean church beds, remove trash and other debris, prune bushes, and aid in any landscaping needs, said Founding Member and Head Liaison Noreen Butano.

"We've helped with getting bids for removing shrubs and trees that were overgrown, old or out of proportion, and we've helped with getting bids for the trees along Broadview Road trimmed," Butano said. "Now, we're in the process of getting bids for updating different areas of the parish grounds with new shrubbery."

Although landscaping experience helps, it's not necessary for being a Garden Club Ministry member.

"You can pick up trash and debris on the church grounds and you can weed, no experience is required," Butano said. "Sometimes we'll bounce ideas off each other and talk about different things we can do and ways we can help out."

Members bring their own gardening equipment and meet at 10 a.m. every four to six weeks to walk the grounds and provide assistance. If a member is crunched for time or can't attend a specific clean-up date, he or she comes on their own time during the week to complete tasks, Butano said.

The ministry, which formed two years ago, kicked off the 2022 growing season in April with a spring clean-up and readying of the church grounds. Despite cold, blustery winds, members pitched in to tidy up numerous sections of the church property, Butano said. She contacts members via text and email regarding their next meeting times.

The Garden Club will meet at 10 a.m. on June 4.

"The Garden Club got its start just by us seeing the need for helping out our maintenance crew at the church, who were doing all of the parish grounds, and we thought we could help out," Butano said.

The ministry frequently partners with local scout troops and members of the Knights of Columbus for mulching and larger scale clean-ups and projects. The ministry also welcomes donations from the larger church community, by way of funds or materials including plants and/or trees. For more information and to learn more about the Garden Club Ministry, contact the Rectory at (440) 526-1177.