

What is Vacation Bible School?

Vacation Bible School is a week-long summer camp held at St. Mary Chardon from 9:15am to 12:30pm. Kids learn through participating in Bible story skits with live actors, theme-related crafts, upbeat worship music, team-building games, multi-media, and small group interaction. Each day features an animal character, called a “Bible Buddy” to help reinforce the key points.

The Vacation Bible School curriculum is refined to serve each age group:

PreK: Specially designed for children age 4 years, 5 years, and entering kindergarten! Same great Bible stories, themes, and activities as the older kids, in a simpler, active form.

Elementary: designed for kids entering 1st grade through 5th grade.

Captains: designed for kids entering 6th grade and 7th grade. Captains are crew helpers. Time is also dedicated for their own middle-school Bible study and service project.

Kids are encouraged to live their faith at home through “God Sightings”, which means kids look for specific evidence of God’s love in their lives. Your kids will also participate in a hands-on mission project to help other kids in need.

This year’s Catholic curriculum is called “ROAR”, published by Our Sunday Visitor. It features a person of faith each day who lived the Bible message. Please refer to the “What Kids Learn” page for details of each day’s lessons.

As children register for Bible school, they are put together in groups of 4 or 5 kids to form a “crew”. Each crew has a “crew leader”, who is usually a high school student. Each crew also has a 6th or 7th grader called a “captain”, who is the helper. The crew can include both boys and girls, and the ages of the kids and the schools they attend may be mixed. This small group format ensures lots of attention, participation, and discussion time for each kid. If there is a friend or guest your child would like in his crew, or other considerations we should know about, please write this info in “crew considerations” or call Judi Parker.

The crews rotate to different rooms inside and outside on a 20-minute schedule. Each room or area is called a “station”. One or more adults teach the lesson or lead the activity, such as skit, craft, games, etc. Since the program is fast-paced, kids enjoy many activities each day. Kids will connect to God and grow in their faith while having a very fun time!

There is a fee for Vacation Bible School, to cover the costs of the crafts, music CD, snacks, tshirts, and other learning materials the students receive. However, we do not want children to miss VBS because of family financial limitations. Sponsorships are available. Please contact Judi Parker for more information.

What is a Captain?

“Captain” is the name given to a Bible school student entering the 6th or 7th grade.

PreK and elementary age kids are organized into small groups of 5 or 6 students called a “crew”. There is also 1 captain in each crew. The captain’s job is to assist the younger kids in the crew with each activity, participate in the discussions, and be a role model for the younger kids.

Captains will get together for a special middle-school age lesson for one period during each day. The rest of the time they enjoy all the other activities with their crew, and help the younger members of the crew. Captains receive t-shirts, music CD, crafts and other special materials.

Captains should register using the same form as the elementary age students. We ask the captains to pay the registration fee since they receive the program materials.