

# What is Vacation Bible School?

Vacation Bible School is a week-long summer camp held at St. Marys 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.

***NEW this year: We have refined the program to better serve each age group at VBS!***

**New 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 “Maker Fun Factory”, 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 a parent, grandparent, or teen. Each crew also has a 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> grader called a “captain”, who will be the helper. Usually the crew includes both boys and girls, and the ages of the kids and the schools they attend may be mixed. If you have any special considerations that would help in forming your child’s crew, please write it on the registration form or call Judi Parker. This small group format ensures lots of attention and discussion time for each kid.

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!