

Vacation Bible School Highlights

St. Anthony VBS has been a long-standing tradition for over 20 years. Stellar – Shine Jesus' Light was the theme this year and was held the first week in June 5 – 9th. 105 students participated this year which included 25 preschooler and 80 students in grades Kindergarten through 5th grade. 30 young helpers from grade 6-11th grade and 26 adult helpers who ran an activity station or helped in other areas during the week.

Our purpose is to join the parish community youths both Catholic School, Parish Religious Education program and children who do not have knowledge of Jesus teachings to come understand the Catholic faith better. Our goal is to help our parish youths and others to continue to grow in their faith. It's a time to join children with adults of the parish so they get to know each other and build relationships among the parish. It's a time away from the classroom to help these young people see how faith is important part of one's life. At the end of the week, we want to believe that kids learned and grew in their faith and had a great time!

Each day the students traveled to different stations with crew leaders which included Crafts, All Star Games, Stellar Bible Adventure, Galactic snacks, KidVid Cinema, Sing & Play Blast Off and Cosmic Closing. Plus met lots of new friends!

Each day a new Bible point, Bible story and Bible verse was introduced to the students.

Day 1- Bible point: When life feels dark, shine Jesus' light! Bible Story: Jesus comes as a baby to be king. (Luke 2:1-20; Matthew 1:18-2:12) Bible verse: "Jesus said, 'I am the light of the world.'" (John 8:12)

Day 2 – Bible point: When people don't get along, shine Jesus' light! Bible story: Jesus accepts Zacchaeus. (Luke 19:1-9) Bible verse: "Live in harmony with each other." (Romans 12:16)

Day 3- Bible point: When good things happen, shine Jesus' light. Bible story: Jesus enters Jerusalem as a king. (Luke 19:28-40), Bible verse: "Shout with joy to the Lord all the earth." (Psalm 100:1)

Day 4- Bible point: When people are sad, shine Jesus' light. Bible story: Jesus cares for his mother during his crucifixion. (John 19-20), Bible verse: "Don't let your hearts be troubled, Trust in God." (John 14:1)

Day 5- Bible point: When people need help, shine Jesus' light. Bible story: Philip helps the Ethiopian. (Acts 8:26-39), Bible verse: "Let your good deeds shine.....so that everyone will praise your heavenly father." (Matthew 5:16)

During our VBS, our students learned more about their faith, and they were also reminded that they are created by God to build his kingdom here on earth. We also share our blessings with our community with a service project for the St. Vincent de Paul - Simon House.

During the week VBS kids were asked to bring item(s) to donate to the Simon House. On Friday, we presented our collected items to the St. Vincent de Paul - Simon House. A representative was here from the Simon House to share her experience helping those in need.

Our goal was to help stock the pantry with much needed items. The children get a real sense of helping within our community with this project. This year, we collected 663 items. We beat last year's total of 659.