

# A Week of Small Hearts and Big Grace

## Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible school is a wonderful event for children. Not only does it allow them to meet new people but gives them an opportunity to either re-inforce their budding faith or to embrace a new budding faith in Jesus that they didn't have before.

It was my first time volunteering and it was a blessing to watch the children grow from the beginning of the week until the end. To see how shy they were to standing up tall singing, doing actions and acting skits with all they had by the end of the week. To see how new friendships blossomed, looking out for one another and the children coming in excited to learn something new.

I was apprehensive about volunteering and thought, I'll do it this year and see, as I had signed up my grandchildren. It warmed my heart to see them grow and be excited to learn. They came home with many questions such as "why did Jesus get 2 lives?" and are now thinking about baptism. It made me think about my relationship with God and made my faith quite a bit stronger.



## Changemakers Lab

VBS July 6-10, 2026

Adults, Youth & Children, come and experience the transforming love of God! Grounded in God's love, and through worship, drama, Bible study, STEAM activities (science, technology, engineering, art, math), and active games, children learn that they can use their unique gifts to make a difference wherever they go. Lots of fun for volunteers and children!



## 2026 Save The Dates

- JANUARY 24:** Men's Conference
- FEBRUARY 6-8:** Discovery Youth Retreat
- FEBRUARY 13:** Mardi Gras
- FEBRUARY 18:** Ash Wednesday
- MARCH 19:** Feast of St. Joseph
- APRIL 1-5:** Easter Triduum
- MAY 1 & 2:** Women's Retreat
- JULY 6-10:** Vacation Bible School
- AUGUST 9-14:** Camp Discovery – Sr High Week
- AUGUST 16-21:** Camp Discovery – Jr High Week

**CHRISTMAS**  
2025



## “I Just Want to Spend Some Time With Jesus”

### Camp Discovery

The Discovery Retreat has been operating in the Peace Region for many years, and this year, we decided to expand the ministry and offer Discovery Camp this summer for the Catholic youth in the area. We saw firsthand the fruits that come from intentionally accompanying the youth on their walk with Christ.

During our High School week, we had one camper who was drawn so close to the Lord that he is now starting to discern priesthood. During our Junior High camp, we had a camper who would often be found in the chapel sitting beside the tabernacle because he just wanted to “spend some time with Jesus.” One camper in the High School week said that she was significantly impacted by Adoration and “experiencing sisterhood” for the first time. There are youth from the Camp who have started altar serving at the Church because they first started at the Camp. When planning the Camp, we wanted to intentionally connect the campers with the Parish community so that they can find a place and answer the call to participate in the life of the Church when the Camp ends.

We saw that the Camp was a beautiful opportunity for the youth to have a personal and tangible experience with the Lord and build life-long friendships. As someone whose personal faith journey was jump-started by a profound experience at a summer camp, it is one of the greatest blessings and joys in my life to be able to offer this to the youth of our community for hopefully many more years to come.

We are excited to announce that we will be running a camp again in 2026. Our Senior High Camp will run from August 9 – 14 and our Junior High Camp will run from August 16 – 21. Save the date and go to [saintjoseph.ca/discovery](http://saintjoseph.ca/discovery) for more information or to register!

## Grace In Death

### Hospice Care

When my uncle became ill and entered hospice care, I witnessed – through the gentle guidance of my dad – what it truly means to die with dignity. The professional and caring staff surrounded our family with compassion, offering clear guidance and walking with us through each step of the journey.

Hospice care is not only support at the end of life; it is care before, during, and after a loved one’s passing. It provided my uncle the grace and dignity he deserved and gave our family the strength, comfort, and space we needed to grieve and to begin healing.

## Tears

### Quilting Bee-Levers

“Tabitha” was moved to tears at the heavy bag of hand crafted colourful bedding – practical gifts from total strangers. From equatorial heat to northern bone chilling cold: escape from a life fearing kidnap, or torture or even death for her and her three children to a humble beginning – perhaps not always plenty to eat, but free to pray. Free to take the Eucharist. A transformed life from God. A warm meal. A simple laugh filled game. A beautiful quilt of kaleidoscope colours for her, and heavy quilts in fun fabrics for each child, with a sturdy shopping bag. Comfort and joy. A tear-filled thank you to Quilting Bee-Levers who CAN make a difference.

## The Summer God Changed My Heart

### Order of Christian Initiation

My journey into Catholicism began in the summer while on vacation. I was an evangelical protestant with a hardened heart against Catholic beliefs, including veneration of Mary, intercession of the Saints and the Eucharist. My parents often challenged my views and encouraged me to have an open heart towards Catholicism. We had many heated debates at the supper table, and I often exclaimed that I would never become a Catholic.

While on vacation to celebrate a close friend’s wedding, I found myself surrounded by a family of strong Catholics. They were curious about my beliefs and open to my questions. Internally, I became challenged by their answers and remarks. This helped God to soften my heart, and over the course of a few days, I began to feel the walls I had built come crashing down.

As school began, I started to feel God calling me to step forward with boldness, so that I might do my part and become a voice for the unborn in an effort to protect the innocent from the evils emerging within our society. My journey has been tiresome, but now that I am attending OCIA and Mass, I have been filled with overwhelming joy and peace as I begin to partake in certain sacraments and work towards confirmation.