

# Jr. Church Report 2024

As we reflect on the past year, we celebrate the many ways our Jr. Church has grown in faith, fellowship, and service. The children of St. Olave's have been actively engaged in learning, worship, and outreach, making 2024 a memorable year of spiritual development and community involvement. Below are some highlights.



## Faith Formation & Worship

- **Lenten & Easter Observance** – Kids were provided a Lenten lap book to journey through lent and they explored in a meaningful Stations of the Cross activity, their understanding of Christ's journey and sacrifice.
- **Bread and the Bible** – We explored the significance of bread in scripture while engaging in hands-on learning by baking pretzels together.
- **Dedication Sunday** – We learned about St. Olave's history and our church community's traditions, strengthening their sense of belonging and faith.
- **Confirmation Sunday** – We were blessed to witness ten of our older children be confirmed by Bishop Patrick White on Michaelmas (Sept 29), marking an important milestone in their spiritual journeys.
- **Christmas Worship Participation** – Our children took on meaningful roles during the Christmas season as choir members, readers, and greeters, enhancing our church's celebration.

## Service & Community Engagement

- **Hosting Coffee Hour** – The children learned the value of hospitality and service by hosting a post-service coffee hour for the parish.
- **Church Open House** - participated in the annual open house to showcase Jr. Church to our neighbours.
- **Back-to-School Backpack Blessings & Lemonade Stand** – To support and encourage their peers, our children participated in a special blessing for students returning to school while also running a lemonade stand to raise funds for Jr. Church initiatives.
- **Christmas Market** – Our Jr. Church ran a hot chocolate stand, bringing warmth and festive cheer to the Christmas Market.

## Special Events & Performances

- **The Great Christmas Adventure Nativity Play** – In December, eleven Jr. Church members brought the story of Christmas to life through a heartwarming nativity play, sharing the joy of Christ's birth with our congregation.

Through these activities, our children have grown in their understanding of faith, service, and community. We are grateful for the ongoing support of our congregation, families, and volunteers who make Jr. Church a thriving part of St. Olave's.

## Attendance and Growth:

Our Jr. Church has been thriving, with an average attendance of 8-10 children per Sunday and up to 13 at full capacity. We have a diverse age range between 5 and 14.

## Looking Ahead to 2025

As we move into the new year, we are excited to create even more opportunities for learning and community involvement. We are also inviting many of our older youth to take on active roles in the church on a weekly basis, including greeting, reading, operating the live stream, and serving. Our goal is to continue integrating Jr. Church and youth into the broader church community, ensuring they feel a deep sense of belonging and connection within our parish.

We look forward to another year of faith-filled learning and service in 2025!

Blessings,  
Siobhan Carmichael  
Jr. Church Coordinator.

