



Junior Church

Respectfully submitted by Siobhan Carmichael

This past year in Jr. Church has been full of fun, learning, and meaningful experiences. On any given week, we've had 8–10 enthusiastic students, mostly from grades 6–10, exploring their faith through interactive lessons, games, and activities. We began the year with our Who is Jesus? series, which gave the kids a chance to get to know Jesus in a hands-on way, and we started training teens as Torchbearers and Greeters to help them take a more active role in church life.



Easter was a particularly joyful time, as we celebrated with “tomb treats,” explored the early church, and contributed to the ACW’s Easter Bags for seniors, creating six packed bags and accompanying cards. Throughout the year, our students participated in a variety of events, from blessing the garden on Rogation Sunday to hosting a fun-filled year-end celebration with Pentecost cupcakes and a water fight with Canon Rob Mitchell.



Our traditions, like blessing backpacks at the start of the school year, continue to bring a sense of continuity and connection. In September, a few of our students attended the ReCharge Retreat at Muskoka Woods, a collaborative effort with St. George on the Hill. This experience was amazing for the kids and represents growing partnerships between our parish and other local churches—including St. Matthews, All Saints, and Christ Church St. James—who serve similar age groups. We are excited about future opportunities to work together and provide more youth activities across our communities.

Our Bible Detective series encouraged the kids to investigate and explore the mysteries of the Bible, while Advent and Christmas gave us a chance to create and deliver over 35 cards for seniors, make family Advent wreaths, bake treats, assemble hot chocolate kits, and prepare for the Nativity play. Teens also engaged with the wider community by volunteering at the Christmas Market, earning hours toward their high school volunteer requirements.

As we move into the new year, our Why We Do This series invites the kids to understand the purpose behind the many activities we do at church, helping them see not just the fun, but the meaning and spiritual growth that come with participation. Overall, it's been a year of laughter, learning, and deepening faith, and I am excited to continue building community and offering new opportunities for our students in the year ahead.