



St. Gertrude's Events

Faith, Family, Friendship: 2023 Vacation Bible School



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St. Gertrude the Great Catholic Church, Mora, New Mexico



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St. Gertrude's Vacation Bible School (VBS) was a great success this summer. The program ran from June 12–16, 2023, and approximately 88 children were in attendance each day. The theme for this year was: ***I AM God's Army.***

Each day began with registration and assembly at 9:00 a.m. for prayer and song. Prayers were then followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States and the New Mexico state flag.

Sessions included: Crafts, Music & Dance, Games, Storytelling, and Chapel with time for snacks. Classes were divided into Pre K-1st;

2nd-3rd, 4th-5th, and 6th-7th grades.

Father Paul Grala worked with lots of Parish volunteers to teach students the importance of faith, family, and friendship in our rapidly changing world.

Throughout the five days, emphasis was placed on the younger students learning basic prayers, i.e., the Sign of the Cross, the Glory Be, and the Guardian Angel Prayer. If they didn't know it, older students learned the St. Michael the Archangel Prayer.

The importance of attendance at Sunday Mass, reverence while in church, and living their Catholic faith was emphasized in all of their

activities.

Craft projects included the following: coloring and decorating Guardian Angels and St. Michael the Archangel, followed by a different project each day. Army-like helmets were decorated, as were shields of armor with angel wings, prayers, American flags, and the Ten Commandments. Swords were fashioned, out of foam core, stenciled with a single angel feather, and students embellished their project to represent the Sword of the Spirit. The classes learned about Joan of Arc and how, despite her young age, she was one of God's great warriors.

Faith, Family, Friendship: 2023 Vacation Bible School (continued)



St. Gertrude the Great
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
JUNE 12TH-16TH - MORA, NM 9AM-12PM
BREAKFAST & LUNCH PROVIDED DAILY
REGISTER AT THE PARISH OFFICE
I AM GOD'S ARMY
EPHESIANS 6:10-18



Faith, Family, Friendship: 2023 Vacation Bible School (continued)

The much-loved Music/Dance program was comprised of faith-filled, energetic songs and led by Mary Catherine Sandoval and her many helpers. Throughout the week, the Parish yard was filled with the sound of prayer, song, and the joyous shouts of the students. The weather also cooperated, so that only made the week even more enjoyable.

Fr. Paul Grala taught all the classes with Sr. Esperanza and Barbara Kuehl, about the significance of the Holy Mass and pointed out the sacredness of the items used during its celebration. He also taught VBS

students the reverence that was required of everyone when entering and departing the church and appropriate behavior in Mass. Again, the importance of daily prayer and living our Catholic faith was emphasized.

St. Gertrude's seminarian, Robbie Kelly, was on hand with his family to entertain the students with great stories from the Bible, which everyone thoroughly enjoyed.

The VBS program was a success due to all the group leaders in each class who took their duties seriously. A great debt of gratitude is owed them. Many thanks are

also owed to all of the Pastoral Office staff who pitched in and did whatever they could to make the program run smoothly. Also, a big thank you to all of the parishioners and parents who took time to volunteer with preparation, registration, teaching, meals and snacks, and clean-up every day.

The VBS program is a great opportunity for children to learn about God and how we, as His children, need Him always in our lives.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the program, especially The Society of Our Lady of

the Most Holy Trinity (SOLT) priests, Frs. Dale Craig, Paul Grala, and Jim Mulligan. None of this could have taken place without their guidance and support.



St. Gertrude the Great Catholic Church

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I AM NOT
Afraid
I WAS
Born
TO DO THIS!
- JOAN OF ARC

