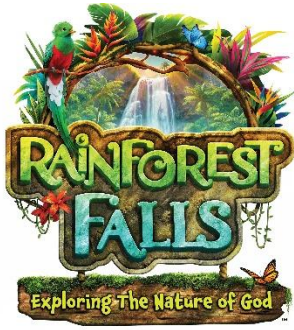


# VBS 2026: Exploring the Nature of God in the Rainforest

## “Give them something to eat yourselves.” — Matthew 14:16



This week's Gospel, the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves, came alive in a beautiful way through our Vacation Bible School 2026: *"Rainforest: Exploring the Nature of God."*

For one joyful week, 121 children gathered at Our Lady of Grace Parish to discover Jesus Christ in a fun, creative, and faith-filled environment. Through Bible adventures, music, crafts, games, and fellowship, our children learned that knowing Jesus is the greatest adventure of all.

The atmosphere throughout the week was filled with joy, enthusiasm, and faith. Our children participated wholeheartedly in the activities, demonstrated respect and kindness, and experienced the love and welcome of their parish family. VBS provided them with a safe and nurturing Christian environment where they could grow in friendship and deepen their relationship with Christ.

Our parish was beautifully transformed into a rainforest, creating an exciting and engaging setting for our children. Many parents expressed their joy and amazement at the creativity and attention to detail. Behind every decoration, activity, and moment of celebration was the generosity and dedication of our volunteers, catechists, youth helpers, and parish staff.

Like the disciples in the Gospel, our volunteers offered Jesus what they had—their time, talents, creativity, energy, and love. Through their generosity, Christ multiplied these gifts and used them to touch the hearts of our children.

The youth volunteers especially served with great maturity and enthusiasm. They became examples of Christian discipleship by caring for the younger children, assisting the leaders, and sharing their joy and faith.

From a catechetical perspective, VBS successfully communicated a fundamental truth of our Catholic faith: God is our Creator, we are created in His image, and we are deeply loved by Him. The children were invited to know Jesus not only as a teacher from the Bible but as their Savior and friend who walks with them every day.

The greatest blessing of this week was not simply that our children had fun, but that seeds of faith were planted in their hearts. They were reminded that they belong to God, that they have a purpose, and that Jesus calls each one of them to follow Him.

As we look ahead, I encourage our families to continue nurturing these seeds of faith through prayer, participation in the Eucharist, Scripture reading, and involvement in the life of our parish community. May the lessons learned during VBS continue to grow in the hearts of our children and their families.

I extend my deepest gratitude to our VBS directors, catechists, volunteers, youth helpers, and parish staff. Your generous service made this extraordinary week possible. You placed your gifts in the hands of Christ, and He used them to feed our children with the love and Word of God.

Jesus continues to work miracles through ordinary people who are willing to say:  
**“Lord, here is what I have. Use it for Your glory.”**

May God bless all who made VBS 2026 a joyful celebration of faith, community, and the love of Jesus Christ.

**Fr. Vilaire Philius**  
Pastor