NOVEMBER 2026 | DIOCESE OF CANADA | ISSUE 1 | VOLUME 5

# LOGOS





**FR. GEORGE VARUGHESE**

**Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!**

The Diocesan Sunday School Team is proud to present this special edition of our newsletter, Logos, featuring the activities and highlights of the OVBS conducted in 2026. This year, approximately 20 parishes conducted OVBS programs, bringing together children in faith, fellowship, and spiritual learning.

The theme of this year's OVBS was **"Walk in purity" Psalm 119:9**(1st Phase) and "**Be Mindful and Stay Blessed" 1 Peter 5:8** (2nd Phase). Both themes remind us of the importance of living a pure life, remaining spiritually alert, and staying firmly rooted in our faith. They encourage our children to walk in God's ways, be mindful of their thoughts and actions, and remain vigilant against the challenges and temptations of the world. Through these meaningful themes, we hope to inspire our children to grow in faith, develop godly character, and experience the blessings of a closer relationship with God.

I extend my sincere gratitude to His Grace Zachariah Mar Nicholovos, our Diocesan Metropolitan, for his blessings and permission to conduct the OVBS. I also express my heartfelt thanks to Rambachan and Achens for their prayers and spiritual guidance; to principals and parish-level coordinators for their leadership; to all teachers for their dedication, cooperation, and support; and to our dear parents and children for their enthusiastic participation.

We also thank **Mrs. Elizabeth Vaidhyan** of St. Gregorios Orthodox Church, Professional Court, Toronto, and **Mrs. Shiny George** of St. Mary's Orthodox Church, Calgary, our Diocesan OVBS Coordinators. We gratefully acknowledge their valuable leadership in organizing and distributing the study materials and maintaining effective communication with parish-level coordinators. Their commitment and service contributed greatly to the successful conduct of this year's OVBS. As we reflect on the blessings of this year's OVBS, may we continue to work together to nurture the faith of our children and guide them along the path of Christ. May God Almighty protect us from Satan and all his wickedness, strengthen us in our faith, and shower His abundant grace and blessings upon our children, families, and the entire Diocese.

**WITH PRAYERS AND BLESSINGS,**
**FR. GEORGE VARUGHESE**
**DIOCESAN SUNDAY SCHOOL DIRECTOR**

OVBS THEME · JANUARY – MARCH 2026

# Walk In Purity

**Psalm 119:9**

# ST. GREGORIOS ORTHODOX CHURCH TORONTO (PROFESSIONAL COURT)









**The Orthodox Vacation Bible School (OVBS) 2026 was successfully conducted from March 18 to March 22, centered on the theme "Walk in Purity."**



Each day included prayer, meditation, Bible-based learning, action songs, music, arts and crafts, games, and Lenten noon prayer.

A special mental health session was conducted by Ann Varughese to provide guidance and awareness to students.

The program witnessed enthusiastic participation, with **103 children, supported by 12 teachers and 15 volunteers**. Notably, this year included five Grade 12 students serving as teachers,





OVBS was made possible through the dedication of the Vicar, Managing Committee, teachers, volunteers, sponsors, youth, digital support team, parents, and the wider church community.
Above all, OVBS 2026 was a spiritually enriching experience, helping children grow in faith, prayer, fellowship, leadership, and service.

# ST. GREGORIOS INDIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
# NORVAL PARISH



**OVBS 2026 was held on March 20–21, followed by the Finale on Sunday, March 22, after Holy Qurbana.**

Around **20–25 adult volunteers** supported the program as instructors, group leaders, administrators, kitchen/food volunteers, and in other roles. **Youth and Grade 11 & 12** students took leadership roles, conducting songs, action songs, and games. They also served as Big Brothers and Big Sisters, helping younger children build relationships within the church community.

The Kindergarten children enjoyed a specially built fort, while intermediate and senior students participated in various games and activities. During the Finale, children sang a Sunday School song, and two children shared their experiences and reflections from OVBS.

Certificates were presented to all participating children at the conclusion of the program. Teachers and volunteers described OVBS as a fun, rewarding experience that helped them interact with the children and get to know them better.

# ST. MARY'S ORTHODOX CHURCH
# AJAX




**The OVBS of St. Marys Malankara Orthodox Church Ajax was held from March 20 to 22, 2026.**

This year we began our OVBS with Flag hoisting on March 20th. We had energetic song sessions and wonderful sessions.

This year we were able to conduct an online retreat session by Fr. Alex Abraham. The session was very informative and interactive and our kids made use of the best of it.

The OVBS concluded with rally and performances by our kids on March 22 after Holy Qurbana.

# ST. JOHN'S ORTHODOX CHURCH

# HAMILTON






**St. John's Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church of Hamilton conducted the OVBS program on March 14, 2026, based on the theme "Walk in Purity." The program was organized with the aim of encouraging children to grow in faith, Christian values, and purity of heart and life. A total of 17 students and 10 teachers participated in the program.**




The program began with an introduction and welcome by Fr. Vineeth Vattakunnel Kurian, who shared a few words about the importance of the OVBS theme and encouraged the children to actively participate throughout the day.





The OVBS program concluded with a sense of joy and fellowship, leaving the children with meaningful lessons and a reminder to walk in purity and live according to Christian values.

# ST. GEORGE COMMUNITY
# OTTAWA





The OVBS was held for a full 3 days. The children had lots of fun and expressed their anticipation for more similar days in the future. The kids were given opportunities to create a vlog-like skit about any saint, and they came up with content that was beyond the expectations of the adults and teachers.






**It was held from March 19th to March 22nd, 2026. There were 24 students, 8 teachers, and 9 volunteers. This program was successful due to the efforts put in by every single one of these participants**




# ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CONGREGATION LONDON



It was on March 20 and 21, 2026. There were 50 students. This program was successful due to the efforts put in by every single one of these participants, teachers and volunteers.

Headed by Vicar, Rev Fr Dr Thomas George, this program involved bible study classes, songs, dances and motivational speeches.



# ST. THOMAS INDIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
# OTTAWA




**IOVBS was held over the March Break from Mar 19th to the 21st with the final ceremony taking place on Mar 22nd following the Holy Qurbana Service.**

**Twenty-seven students registered in total. We had 4 teachers primarily focussed on teaching and 6 full-time volunteers**

**Kids learned Christian values by researching Bible names and presenting on three biblical characters who walked in purity**
**Kids built teamwork through hands-on science games, competing for a rolling trophy, and making yogurt parfaits for a Snehavirrunnu life-skills activity.**










# SAINTS BASELIOS & GREGORIOS MALANKARA ORTHODOX CONGREGATION
# NIAGARA FALLS, ONTARIO

This congregation successfully conducted OVBS 2026 under the theme “Walk in Purity” (Psalm 119:9). The program focused on helping children grow in their faith and understand the importance of living according to God’s Word. We invited Thomas Abraham as the guest speaker for this year OVBS.











**OVBS Dates: June 27th 2026 June 28th**
**Number of Students: 34**
**Number of Teachers/Volunteers: 14**

The children participated in Bible lessons, worship, prayer, group activities, games, crafts, and various interactive sessions. The program was organized into age-appropriate groups so that the lessons and activities could be presented in a way that was engaging and easy for the children to understand.










Overall, the students had a wonderful and meaningful experience. They actively participated in the sessions, enjoyed spending time with their friends, and especially appreciated the interactive activities and games. The combination of spiritual learning, fellowship, and fun helped create an enjoyable OVBS experience for everyone.

We are thankful to all the teachers, volunteers, parents, and children who contributed to making OVBS 2026 a successful and memorable experience. We look forward to continuing to develop activities that help our children grow in faith while enjoying fellowship within the Orthodox Church community.

OVBS THEME · APRIL – SEPTEMBER 2026

# Be Mindful and Stay Blessed

“Be watchful, be sober; your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion.”

*1 Peter 5:8*

# ST. MARY'S ORTHODOX CONGREGATION
# THUNDER BAY









**OVBS 2026 was conducted from July 10–12, 2026, under the theme "Be Mindful and Stay Blessed" (1 Peter 5:8).**
**There were 25 students and 7 teachers.**





Our **Valedictory Function** was held on **August 15, 2026.** The children presented songs and action songs, while our senior and junior students shared speeches about their three-day OVBS journey.

The program included Bible lessons, songs and praise, crafts, games, and faith-building activities.





Special activities introduced this year were a Gratitude Jar, Vision Board, and Photo Frame activity, where the children expressed gratitude, reflected on their hopes and goals, and creatively captured OVBS memories.



# ST. MARY'S ORTHODOX CONGREGATION KITCHENER

St Mary's Congregation Kitchner conducted 2026 OVBS on July 28 and 29 . We had 48 kids participated on both days , our youngest was 2.5 years old . We had songs , lessons and some activities on the first day . Second day morning holy Qurbana , OVBS rally and kids showcased what they learned







*Be Mindful and Stay Blessed*

1 Peter 5:8

# ST. JOSEPH ORTHODOX CONGREGATION
# WINDSOR, ONTARIO



**The St. Joseph Orthodox Congregation of Windsor, Ontario, joyfully conducted its Orthodox Vacation Bible School (OVBS) from August 20th to 22nd, 2026. The three-day program was a wonderful opportunity for children to come together in faith, fellowship, and learning.**

A total of **45 students** participated in the OVBS throughout the three days. The program was supported by **eight dedicated teachers** and **six volunteers**, whose time and effort helped make the event a meaningful and enjoyable experience for all the children.

The OVBS sessions were conducted in the evenings, allowing children and families to participate conveniently. The final day, August 22nd, was held following Holy Mass. Everyone came together for an OVBS rally around the church, creating a joyful and energetic celebration of faith. Participation certificates were given.

The success of this year's OVBS was greatly supported by the incredible guidance and encouragement of our parish priest, **Rev. Fr. Jerry John Matthew**. His support was invaluable throughout the entire process.

# ST. JAMES INDIAN ORTHODOX CONGREGATION HALIFAX

















**The OVBS was conducted on August 2, 8, 9, and 15, 2026, with 30 students and 9 teachers participating.**

- Day 1 – “Be Mindful and Shine Bright”
  Colour: Yellow , Symbol: Sun
- Day 2 – “Look Up to God”
  Colour: Blue , Symbol: Sky
- Day 3 – “You Are All Beautiful as You Are”
  Colour/Symbol: Rainbow
- Final Day – “Be Mindful and Stay Blessed”
- Colour: White Symbol: Dove

The classes were designed to be interactive, with music, crafts, games, and activities
that kept the children actively involved. Rev. Fr. Joemon Thomas and Rev. Fr. Jojy
James George conducted interactive sessions that the children particularly enjoyed. Events like the tree of life, Faith Fiesta, and the arts and crafts exhibition. Overall, OVBS 2026 was a fun-filled and memorable experience, bringing together faith, learning, creativity, music, and fellowship.












# ST. MARK INDIAN ORTHODOX CONGREGATION
# PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND




**PEI's OVBS was conducted on September 12, 2026, followed by the Valedictory Function on September 13, 2026.**

**There were 17 students and 4 teachers who participated to make this event successfull.**





The children had a wonderful and joyful experience. They especially enjoyed the craft activities and songs, which made the sessions fun and engaging for them. Overall, it was a blessed and memorable experience for our children and teachers.

# ST JOHN THE INDIAN ORTHODOX CONGREGATION
# ST JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND




















**OVBS program was conducted on August 15, 2026, with 37 students and 12 teachers participating.**

Since this was a one-day program, we focused on general classes and activities. The students participated in general music classes, a Bible quiz, games, and a special class conducted by one of our teachers.



The students had a very positive and enjoyable experience. They actively participated in the different activities and especially enjoyed the games, music sessions, and Bible quiz, which made the day both fun and meaningful.

Overall, the one-day OVBS program was a wonderful experience for both the students and teachers, providing an opportunity for learning, fellowship, and fun.

# ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH
# VANCOUVER




**OVBS program was conducted on Aug 21, 22, and 23 with 40 participants, 14 teachers and 2 student volunteers.**






This year, their Saturday session started late and their Onam Sadhya fell on the same day as the final day of OVBS. The regular lessons took place in the Beginner, Primary, Junior, Intermediate and Senior classes; the children took part in activities within their groups.









# ST.GEORGE INDIAN ORTHODOX CONGREGATION

# REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN
























Regina's OVBS 2026 was held from **July 8 to July 10, 2026**, based on the theme "Be Mindful and Stay Blessed" (1 Peter 5:8).

**24 children and 6 teachers and volunteer**s helped with the smooth running of the program.

One of the most memorable highlights of this year's OVBS was our unique Sunday School banner, beautifully designed with artwork by one of our church members.

OVBS 2026 concluded on July 11, following the Holy Qurbana, with a joyful OVBS rally, valedictory meeting, various programs by our OVBS children, and a love feast, bringing everyone together in a spirit of gratitude, joy, and fellowship.

# ST.PHILIP INDIAN ORTHODOX CONGREGATION MONCTON,NEW BRUNSWICK

By God's grace, the Orthodox Vacation Bible School (OVBS) 2026, organized by St. Philip Indian Orthodox Congregation in Moncton, drew **30 enthusiastic students**, along with teachers and clergy. Guided by the theme "Be Mindful and Stay Blessed" (1 Peter 5:8), the four-day program took place on **Saturday, June 27; Friday, July 3; Saturday, July 4, and Sunday, July 5.**













Fr. Joji James, Fr. Kris Sebi, and Fr. Nithin V Rajan led Bible lessons, songs of praise, creative crafts, and fellowship games.

Children eagerly participated in joyful learning, discovering faith through every activity and shared moment.

Students and teachers shared plants brought from home—a reflection of growth, care, and unity in faith.

**I enjoyed the games of OVBS**

**I learned to stay positive and close to God.**

*--- Aiden*

**I had so much fun.**

I learned to grow closer to God and make friends.

– By Ameya

# ST.MARY'S MALANKARA ORTHODOX CHURCH CALGARY




**OVBS Date:** 19th August to 23rd August 2026

**Activities kids particularly enjoyed:**
Bible based Scavenger Hunt game, Action songs and the Animal petting – Goats and Birds

**Experience:**
The Kids especially enjoyed the general sessions which included Action, songs, Memory versus and Games





# ST. THOMAS ORTHODOX CHURCH
# TORONTO




**OVBS Date:** 4-day parish program (July 9–12) for 29 children (60% of register) with 10 teachers and 10 volunteers.




**Experience:**
Daily Learning & Music: Explored the theme through lessons, crafts, dance, and fun mid-morning action songs.

**Activities kids particularly enjoyed:**
Friday Love Feast, high-energy water-balloon games, barbecue lunch,Showcased artwork and performed age-group skits, including "Moses Parting the Red Sea" and "The Lion in the Wi-Fi".







# ST. GREGORIOS ORTHODOX CHURCH EDMONTON



**OVBS Date:** July 20 to July 24
welcoming approximately 60 children of various ages

- **Songs & Verses: Learned theme songs and memorized Bible verses throughout the week.**
- **Faith Lessons: Participated in interactive lessons to learn more about their faith and church community.**

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- **Marshmallow & Toothpick Tower Challenge: Worked in teams to design, build, and test creative towers in a friendly competition.**
- **Group Games & Play: Joined in fun group games that built teamwork, problem-solving, and friendships.**









# Be Mindful and Stay Blessed

1 Peter 5:8