Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
Level 1, Year 1: November 2024

The Model Altar (Moment I)

The beautiful table in the church is called the altar. This is a holy table for a very special feast. We introduce and name the models of the holy items we see at the altar from our model sacristy. These are small, child-sized models.

- Altar: the beautiful table where we share a special feast.
- Altar cloth: always white for the celebration.
- Paten: holds the bread that becomes Jesus.
- Chalice: beautiful cup that holds the wine that becomes Jesus.
- Candles: to remind us of Jesus' light!
- Crucifix: because it is Jesus who invites us to this holy meal!

Sign of the Cross

We know that the cross is Jesus' sign. We see this beautiful sign throughout the Atrium, reminding us of Jesus' love. We can make this sign or gesture on ourselves, as a special prayer. We have a mirror in the Atrium to help us get the gesture in the right order. When we are ready, we will add the words to this prayer and even bless ourselves with Holy Water.

Prayer Cards

We always have a prayer card on our prayer table. Sometimes it is a simple prayer word or phrase such as, Amen, Alleluia, or Glory to God! Sometimes it is a drawing from one of our works in the Atrium. Your child can now make his or her own prayer card for Jesus in the Atrium! The back of the prayer card always matches the color of the liturgical season we are in. Right now it is green for Ordinary Time!

Church Tour

We enjoyed a trip with one of our priests to the church for a tour. We saw, up close, the beautiful holy items we were introduced to the Atrium. What a great joy and gift!

Preparation of the Cruets

We have been working hard on our pouring during Catechesis. We can do the work of the sacristan in the Atrium now! Using a funnel, we can prepare the wine cruet and the water cruet, just like they are prepared for every Mass. See if you can find the cruets brought forward to the altar and set on the credence table (next to the altar) at Mass this Sunday!