

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Level 1, Year 1: October 2024

Introduction to the Atrium

We use our walking feet and quiet, whispering voices in the Atrium, as we spend time with Jesus! It is always so sweet bringing the children into this special place for the first time. The children are slowly introduced to Montessori exercises including beading, sorting colors, puzzles, lacing, and so forth to begin working on their own in this special place.

The Prayer Table

We always gather at the prayer table at the end of our session in the Atrium for prayer as a group. Here we see a specific color (green for now) and a beautiful candle. We light the candle to remind us Jesus is in this place.

Enthronement of the Bible

The Bible is God's Word; a holy book and a great gift from God. The children were all able to hold the Bible with their own hands and even give it a hug, if they so chose. We listened closely to John 8:12. We then celebrated having God's Word here with us with a procession and even sang a special song. We then carefully enthroned it on our prayer table with great joy.

Liturgical Colors

Using model chasubles, the large outer garment Father wears at Mass, we discussed what these colors mean in the church.

- **Purple:** before the feast, when we are waiting and preparing!
- **White:** on the feast, when we are celebrating.
- **Green:** after the feast, during Ordinary Time.
- **Red:** for the feasts of great love, including Pentecost.

Globe

We enjoyed looking at the beautiful world God made us and even singing "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands." With this work we highlight all of the land and water that God made and the tiny, tiny place He chose for His Son Jesus to live: the Land of Israel! Jesus spent so much time here. It is marked on our globe with a little red dot.

Raised Surface Map

We then enjoyed seeing the raised surface map of the Land of Israel and highlighting the three most important places in Jesus' life:

- **Nazareth (the flame):** where Mary lived, where the Holy Spirit came down.
- **Bethlehem (the star):** where Jesus was born!
- **Jerusalem (the cross):** where Jesus died and rose.

