

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Level 1, Year 2: October 2024

Introduction to the Atrium

What a gift to return to the Atrium! We always begin with a re-orientation - this is a special place where we walk and talk with great care and purpose. We share a few reminders about our Montessori exercises of practical life, how to use a mat, and how we restore our work.

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.

Vestments of the Priest

Building on our liturgical colors work from last year, the children can make a collage of the liturgical colors work. Then, we share the vestments that the priest wears underneath the chasuble.

- **Clerics:** the priest's "uniform," the black clothes and Roman collar the priest wears each day to remind him of his mission for Jesus.
- **Alb:** a reminder of the white garment received at baptism.
- **Cincture:** to remind the priest he is tied to God.
- **Stole:** Father wears this when he is working for God!
- **(Chasuble:** always the same color as the stole; only worn at Mass! It goes over all of his garments, like the Good Shepherd's love covers us.)

Globe & Raised Surface Map

We enjoy finding the little red dot for the Land of Israel on our globe once again. Jesus spent so much time here!

We re-share the three most important places Jesus visited and lived in this land; and in their second year, the children can now color their own map of the Land of Israel!

- **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.

