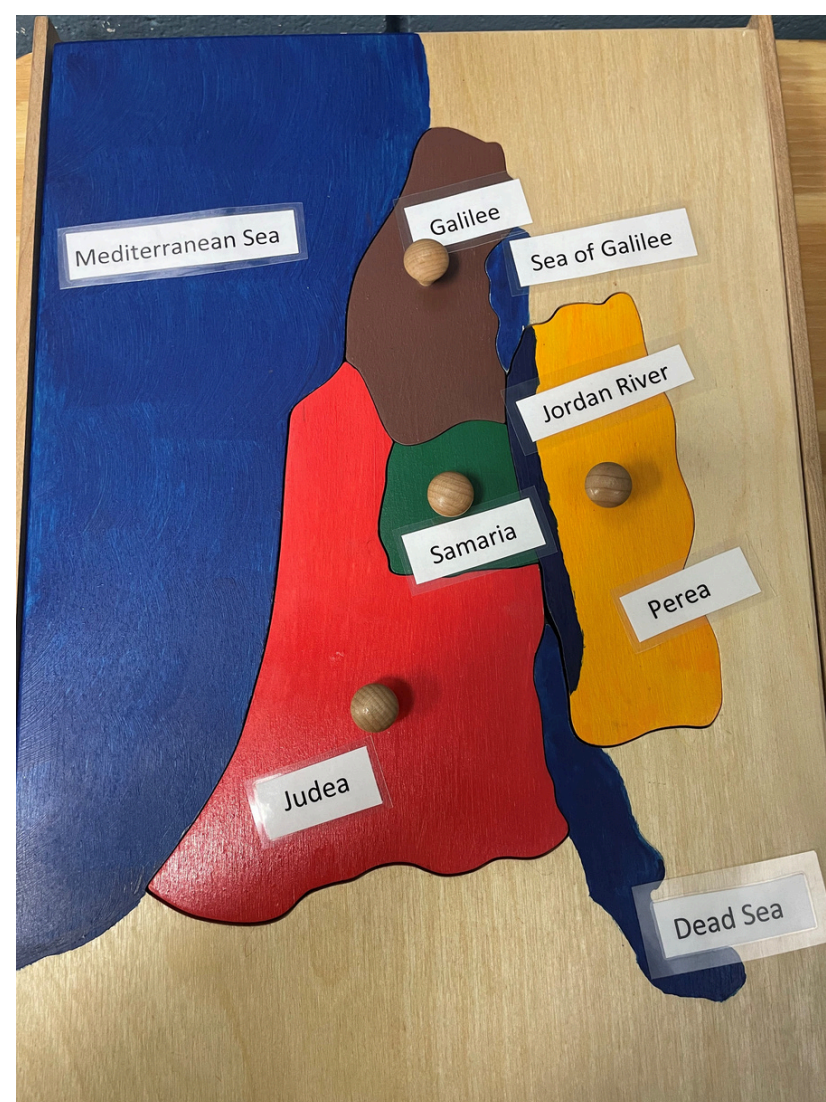


Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Level 1, Year 3: November 2024

Puzzle Map of the Land of Israel (Moment II)

We returned to the puzzle map of the regions in Israel, reviewing these names and places (it's a lot of names to remember!). Then we shared how to trace and make our very own map of the Land of Israel with these pieces, a new way to ponder the special place God chose for His Son, Jesus!

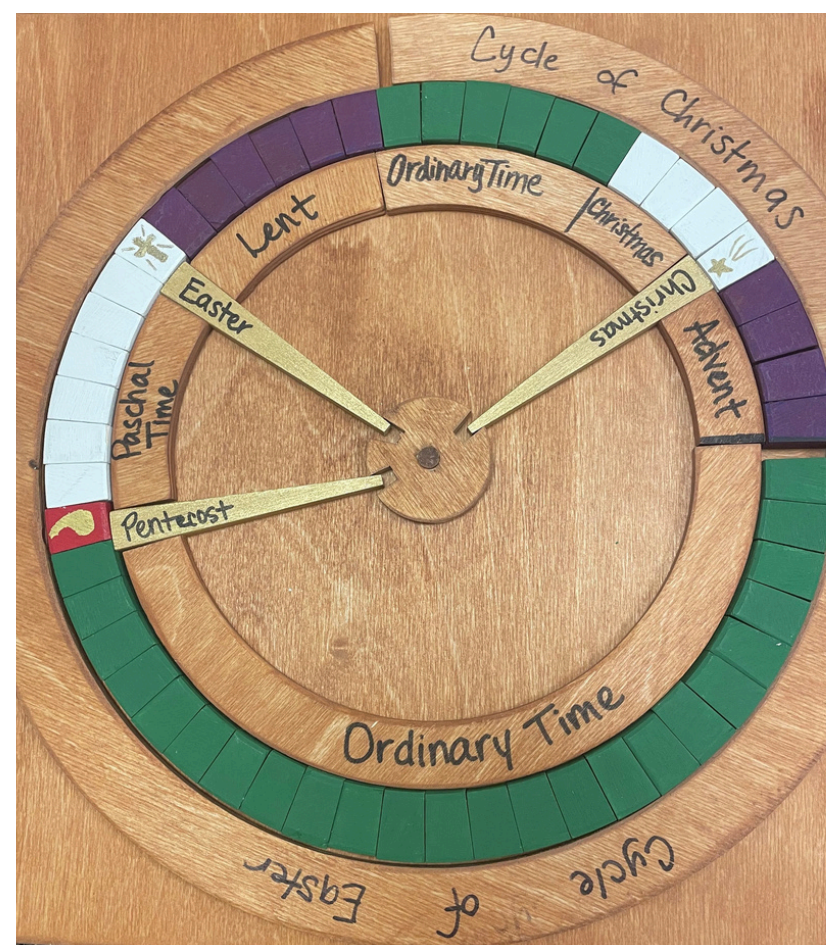


Church Tour

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!

Liturgical Calendar

Just as the earth travels once around the sun each year, so we “travel” around Jesus, preparing for, celebrating, and growing while recalling and living the most significant events of His life. We took note of the colors and symbols on the calendar. We know what they mean! Each small prism is one Sunday in the church year. We move around this calendar counter-clockwise, reminding ourselves that God's time is not our time -- He is even outside of time. This is a simplified version of the liturgical calendar, but it's so helpful to see our year laid out this way and to see each of the Sundays of the year that Christ calls us to the greatest feast, the Holy Mass.



Preparation of the Chalice

Then, we share how the priest prepares the chalice during Mass: pouring all of the wine and one small drop of water into the chalice. We pause for a moment to wonder: can we separate the water from the wine?

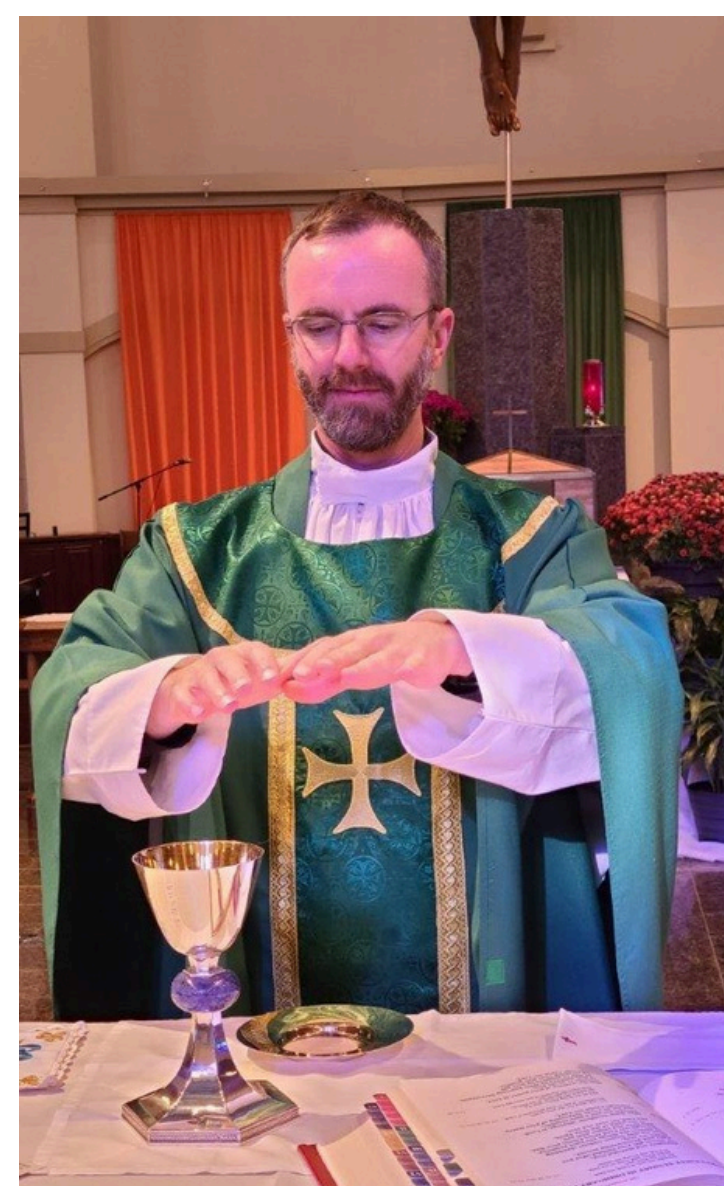


We were then able to share the booklet for this work to help our pondering: “The water added to the wine is a sign of our union with Jesus.”

Who could the wine remind us of, so great and so sweet? (Jesus.) And the water? (Us – we can never be separated from God.)

Epiclesis (Moments I-II)

Finally, we shared a gesture of the priest, which the children can come to know and understand: the epiclesis. The priest moves his hands, palms down, from up high to right over the bread and the wine. What could Father be saying with his hands with this gesture? Is he asking a special gift from heaven to come down upon the bread and the wine? In some groups, the children knew right away – the Holy Spirit is coming down from heaven. In other groups, it helped us to remember that the bread and the wine truly become Jesus.



If there was time, we were able to share the Booklet for this work with the prayer the priest is praying during this gesture, which really assisted our wondering about this gesture: “Therefore, O Lord, we humbly implore you: by the same Spirit graciously make holy these gifts we have brought to you for consecration, that they may become the Body and Blood of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ at whose command we celebrate these mysteries.”