

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Level 1, Year 3: 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. One of our new exercises for our third year children is tracing!

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; Jesus is the Light of the world. 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.)

The Regions of Israel

Building on our works of the globe and raised surface map, your child can now enjoy our puzzle map of Israel, which highlights the regions of Israel. Very soon at Mass we will hear, "Bethlehem of Judea," so this work gives the children a great framework for both Advent and Christmas.

- **Judea:** Bethlehem and Jerusalem are in this region. Jesus spent a lot of time here.
- **Samaria:** the region Jesus walked through.
- **Galilee:** this is where Jesus grew up, in Nazareth.
- **Perea:** the region where Jesus prayed.
- **Sea of Galilee:** sea near Galilee where Jesus went fishing with his friends.
- **Jordan River:** where Jesus was baptized.
- **Dead Sea:** this sea is so salty nothing can live in it.
- **Mediterranean Sea:** sometimes called "The Great Sea," this sea is huge and has so many fish in it.

The Model Altar, Moment III

Building on our past two years, the children are now introduced to the corporal, purificator, lavabo, cruets, and pall.

