

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Level II: December 2024

Advent in the Level II Atrium

We prepare our hearts in Advent in the Atrium. We share a number of Old Testament prophecies (including one that was new for everyone!) and ponder the Infancy Narratives at a higher level.

Messianic and Moral Prophecies

- **Isaiah 9:1:** The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
- **Isaiah 9:5:** For a child is born to us, a son is given to us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Wonder Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace.
- **Numbers 24:17b:** A star shall advance from Jacob, and a scepter shall rise from Israel.
- **Isaiah 40:3-5:** A voice proclaims in the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God! Every valley shall be lifted up, every mountain and hill made low; the rugged land shall be a plain, the rough country, a broad valley. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

With the first three Messianic Prophecies, we wonder about this great gift God is sending. With this first Moral Prophecy (new to all), we wonder how to prepare for this great gift God is going to send. How can we prepare ourselves? How can we prepare our heart?

Infancy Narratives, Expanded

We shared the Annunciation and the Visitation, right in a row, showing how Mary left “in haste” for Elizabeth’s house following the Angel Gabriel’s departure. It was joyful to share new questions with the children and see how they responded with work. One child chose to explore Zechariah’s story further after we were finished with our pondering. Another child chose to explore and make a map after hearing of Mary’s journey to the “hill country” in Judea, near Jerusalem, which is quite the journey.

