

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) Newsletter - October 2018

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Communications/Reminders

- **Thanksgiving Food Drive!** The Youth Group is collecting non-perishable food items. If your family would like to contribute, they have requested that we focus on dessert items for them (cake/brownie/cookie mixes, canned fruit or cranberry sauce), which you can drop off when you come on Tuesdays until October 30th.
- Note: we will not meet on November 6th (Election Day).

What's Happening in our Atria

We continue to settle into the rhythm of atrium life with lessons on Grace and Courtesy and more practical life activities. We also are beginning to introduce presentations on life in the Church. Our Level II children are also beginning to explore the History of the Kingdom of God.

Level I Atrium (pre-k/K): Life in the Church

Our Level I children (pre-K/K) are introduced to the many articles used during the Mass to familiarize them with what they see at Church. Using our Model Altar Materials, they learn the names and uses of:

- the **altar** with **altar cloth** where the special Eucharistic meal is lovingly prepared with a...
- **paten** and **chalice** made of precious metal that holds the bread and wine that becomes Jesus
- a **crucifix** that reminds us of Jesus' death and resurrection to new life that He lovingly shares with us
- **candles** that are lit to remind us of Jesus' presence at the altar



Each year, more is added about how Jesus is present during the Mass/at church:

- in the Word of God which is contained in the lectionary and read from the lectern
- in the ciborium (the vessel that contains the consecrated hosts for communion) which is kept inside the tabernacle (the place where the consecrated hosts are kept)
- When the sanctuary lamp is lit, we know Jesus is present in the tabernacle

We eventually explore additional articles of the mass, such as the Roman Missal, cruets, lavabo and more.

We first introduce the Liturgical Seasons through the chasubles (the outer garment worn by the priest) whose color changes based on the events in Jesus' life we are about to celebrate:

- White – for the celebration of the feasts (Christmas and Easter)
- Purple – for the preparation of the feasts (Advent and Lent)
- Red – for the Holy Spirit and special feast of Pentecost
- Green – for ordinary time (or “growing time” of Jesus’ love and learning)



Our older children explore the liturgical seasons in more detail through working with a puzzle of the liturgical calendar. They are also introduced to other vestments of the priest:

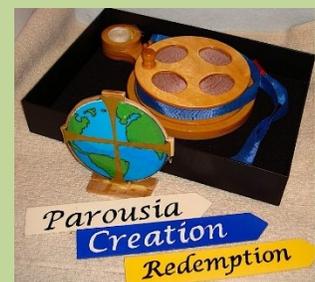
- Alb – the white garment worn over their clothing
- Cincture – a rope-like belt tied at the waist
- Stole – a long cloth worn around the neck also of the liturgical color.

AT HOME - Familiarity leads to greater participation in the liturgy. When attending Mass, invite your child to look for items introduced in the atrium. Aren't the real items used for Mass even more beautiful?

Level II Atrium (1st/2nd Grade): History of the Kingdom of God

Although some time is spent with our Level II children revisiting the articles of the Mass and Vestments (as above) in a more detailed way, the primary focus is in introducing the children to the History of the Kingdom of God. This History is told in the Bible, beginning with the book of Genesis. Genesis describes the unfolding of God's plan that created cosmos out of chaos, from which the first forms of life appeared in an orderly fashion, until God had completed His preparation for the moment when He breathed an immortal soul into the first humans. Christ's life, death and resurrection, as told in the Gospels fulfilled God's promise of a Redeemer. The rest of history leading up to Parousia – when God's love and light will fill all of creation - is yet to be written. God has lovingly provided for us, and we are part of the History of God's Kingdom!

A number of different materials help us ponder this great history, including a 50-yard-long “timeline” that we hope to unroll outside to put God's plan into perspective, and a shorter



“blue strip” that can be rolled out in the atrium. How can we not be awed by the vastness of God’s love when we are finished laying out this timeline that illustrates how much time and care God put into preparing His Kingdom for us?

AT HOME - Has your child been introduced to scientific information on creation? Discuss with your child how this information may be different or the same as the story told in Genesis. Are all our needs lovingly fulfilled through creation? Is creation complete? Is the time of redemption complete? What might it be like for God’s love to fill the whole earth?

For the Home

Family Worship

Did you set up a prayer corner with a Bible and/or other prayerful objects? Place a cloth of the liturgical color underneath the objects (currently green). Help your child find a Bible passage in your Family Bible and then read the passage before meal or bedtime. It is helpful to be selective in what is presented to the children. Here are some suggestions:

Level I (keep it short and simple):

- John 8:12 (I am the Light of the World)
- Psalm 118:27 (The Lord is God and has given us Light)
- Psalm 100:2b (Come into His presence with singing)

Level II (some short passages related to our study of the History of the Kingdom of God):

- Creation - Genesis 1:1 through 2:4; John 1:1-3a
- Redemption – Matthew 18:5-7
- Parousia – 1 Corinthians 15:28; Revelations 21:4

Prayer is simply talking and listening to God. What would your child like to say to or tell God about the Word just read or anything from their heart?

Asking God for His peace and blessing in the coming weeks,
St. Joseph's CQS Team