

A Peek Into The Atrium

Altar Works

The child's work in the atrium comes directly from our Catholic traditions of scripture and liturgy. The connection is plain to see when we look at the Altar Works. Once a child has received a lesson with specific materials, s/he may choose the work as often as s/he likes. And altar works are often chosen—very popular works! We have altar works for each year of the level one (3-6 year old's) atrium.

Year One

Items of the Altar is one of the earliest presentations in the atrium. This first Altar presentation, using small models of the items, introduces the names of the things that we see on the altar during mass. These include:

- ❖ altar (table)
- ❖ altar cloth
- ❖ chalice (cup)
- ❖ paten (plate)
- ❖ crucifix
- ❖ candle holders
- ❖ candles (lighted by the adult)

Year Two

Jesus Present in the Tabernacle Again, small models of these items are introduced to the child, along with the names:

- ❖ Tabernacle
- ❖ Ciborium (the vessel within the tabernacle that holds consecrated hosts)
- ❖ Sanctuary lamp (the lit candle near the tabernacle)
- ❖ Tabernacle Key (a great point of interest for the child!)

Year Three

Remaining Items of the Altar In this lesson we offer a few more items for the child to set up when s/he is working with the altar.

- ❖ Altar linens: corporal, purificator (the cloths the priest uses during the consecration)
- ❖ Roman Missal (the book of prayers which the priest uses)
- ❖ Lavabo pitcher, bowl, and hand towel (the items for the priest's washing of the hands)

As your child becomes more familiar with these items, s/he may begin to recognize them during mass or may notice them in a more particular way. We are aiming to nurture the child's fuller participation in mass through the introduction of the names of these items and by giving the child the opportunity to work with the materials during their time in the atrium. Feel free to ask to see these works if you want to know more!