

A Peek Into The Atrium

The Colors of the Year

Looking around our area, these days, you may be thinking the colors of the year are orange, red and yellow (fall, Halloween.) And soon they will change to red and green (for Christmas.) But the colors we talk about in our atrium are the colors of our church year. So far, we have been in Ordinary Time and our color has been green. Soon, we will begin the season of Advent and the color will change to purple. We will have a procession in the atrium to mark this change.

First Year Work

No matter what time of year it is, we have a work called the **Liturgical Colors** that helps the child become more aware of the liturgical season. The material includes small chasubles in the 4 basic liturgical colors. A chasuble is the outer garment that the priest wears when he is celebrating mass. The color of the garment changes according to the liturgical season. The 3-6 year old child has a natural attraction to color and this work attracts the child and deepens the awareness to the colors used in church and worn by the priest.

Second Year Work

We have many follow-on works for the 2nd year child that reinforce the colors of our liturgical year. You may see any number of versions of Chasuble tracing, pasting, and/or coloring come home with your child. In addition, the children may work with the Vestments, which is a work that names the vestments that the priest wears. The child may choose a liturgical color and place models of the vestments on the stand, in the same way the priest might vest before mass. Another 2nd year work that the child may see is the Liturgical Calendar. This is a big work for the child, as it is a puzzle with one piece, or prism, for each Sunday of the Year.

Third Year Work

For the third year child, we add the names of the seasons of the liturgical year and their corresponding pieces to the Liturgical Calendar. In addition, the child with improving hand control is now able to do more follow on works.

Look on the other side and find a popular atrium song for the Colors of the Year.

Purple and green and red and white are the colors of the year.

Purple and green and red and white, remind us of the light.

Purple's for preparation.

White is for celebration.

Green is for Ordinary Time.

Red is for Pentecost.

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