

A Peek Into The Atrium

What's going on in there?

The story from the atrium in these early days is all about basic introductions and reintroductions (for those who are returning): to each other, to the sacred space, and to the ways of moving in the atrium. We are practicing slowing down the movements of our bodies and talking in quiet voices. During this time together we have no need to hurry or rush, and we are beginning to allow ourselves the time and space to be quiet with God.

We are spending time in song, learning one another's names, and building our sense of community in the atrium.

And we are finding out, more and more, about the works that are in this space and how to use them, beginning with the art materials and the Bible in the Prayer Corner for those who are brand new. For those who are returning, we reacquaint ourselves with favorite works, and share the first presentations for the works of a new year. One gratifying experience for the catechist and child alike, is to see the 2nd and 3rd year children assisting the new ones, showing the first works, demonstrating the atrium ways, and leading the new ones around our space.

Atrium Terminology

You may notice that we use different language in the atrium. We refer to the materials as "works", and that children "work" instead of "play" with them. This is rooted in Montessori and Christian principles of seeing work as what gives dignity to the human being. Our language also helps to reverence our space.

About the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and Our Educational Approach

This approach to faith formation is grounded in the belief that children come to us already in relationship with God. As parents and educators, we see and respect God in the child. We know that the child belongs to God, not us. Deep spiritual needs of children are satisfied by core bonds with their parents. What follows is nurturing the bond of child and God. The Good Shepherd introduces our God as one who loves us unconditionally. He calls and knows each one of us by name. The atrium is a place for children to enjoy and develop this relationship.



Welcome to our New Year in the Atrium!