

A Peek Into The Atrium

The Season of Easter is a beautiful time in the atrium, full of new moments and works. Look for our separate newsletter about “The Liturgy of the Light.” We bring our attention to gestures and elements of the liturgy and the sacrament of baptism. You may encourage your child to watch carefully at these moments during Mass – sometimes they pass very quickly!

Baptism

Year One: The Light & the White Garment

The initial presentation of baptism involves the light and the white garment. We link the light to the light of the Easter fire, the light of the resurrection. We invite each child to place a candle lit from the Paschal candle in the atrium as a reminder that we carry that light from our baptism always. The white garment is the outward sign of our baptism, a way for all to see on the outside what is happening on the inside through the sacrament of baptism.

Year Two: The Water & the Word

This is a captivating moment for the children! We revisit what it was like when we were baptized, when the priest poured water on us, often as a baby. We share the words that were spoken at that moment, “_____, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” The children are invited to do the gesture of pouring and to remember those words. The children return to this work often – highlighting the excitement and significance of this sacrament. We also link this moment to the Word of God that tells us how the Good Shepherd “Calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.” (John 10:3)

Year Three: The Oils and the Gestures

In this third presentation with the children, we present the oil of Chrism and the oil of Catechumens. The children enjoy smelling the sweet oil of Chrism and reflecting on the meaning of being anointed with the gesture of the sign of the cross. The strength and the protection of the Good Shepherd speaks to the young child in this work.