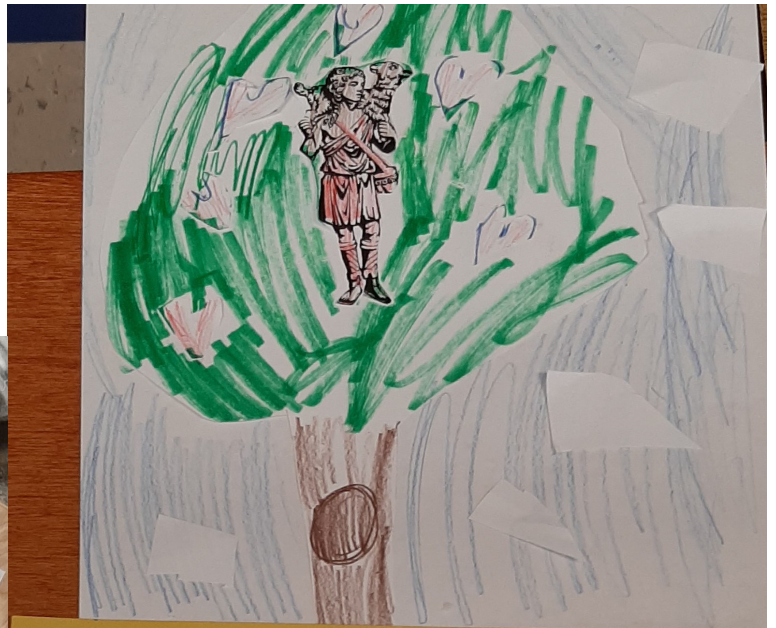


# Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

The Good Shepherd “calls his own sheep by name.” Working in a space with silence and reverence will help the child focus on and listen to God.



The Lord loves us  
and he will protect us.  
and keep us save,  
He leads down the right path  
and guides us closer to Him.

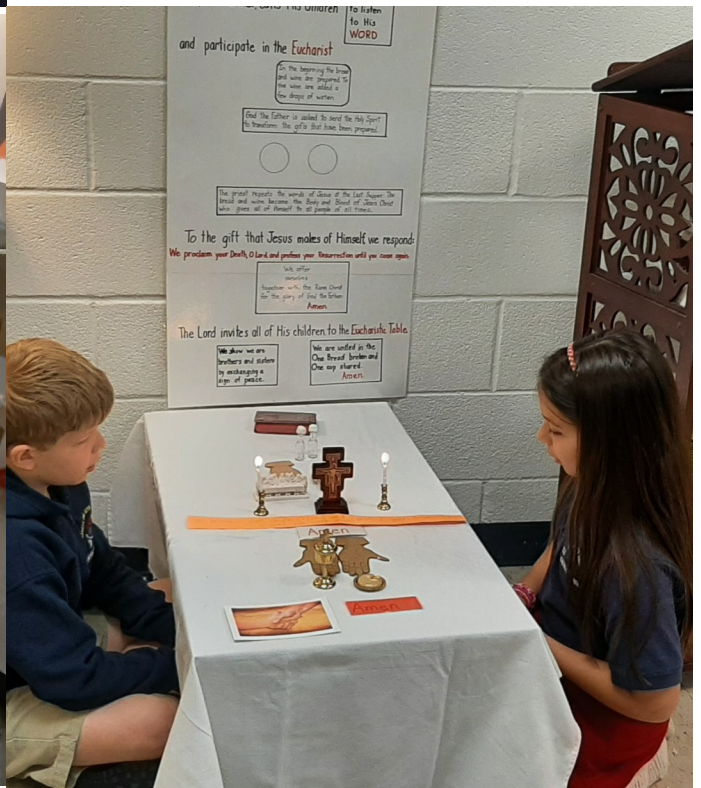
Silence is a necessary means of listening and responding to God. Silence serves the child and brings interior order. The children show us time and again how much they love this exercise of silence as they work in the atrium. Without silence there is no prayer.





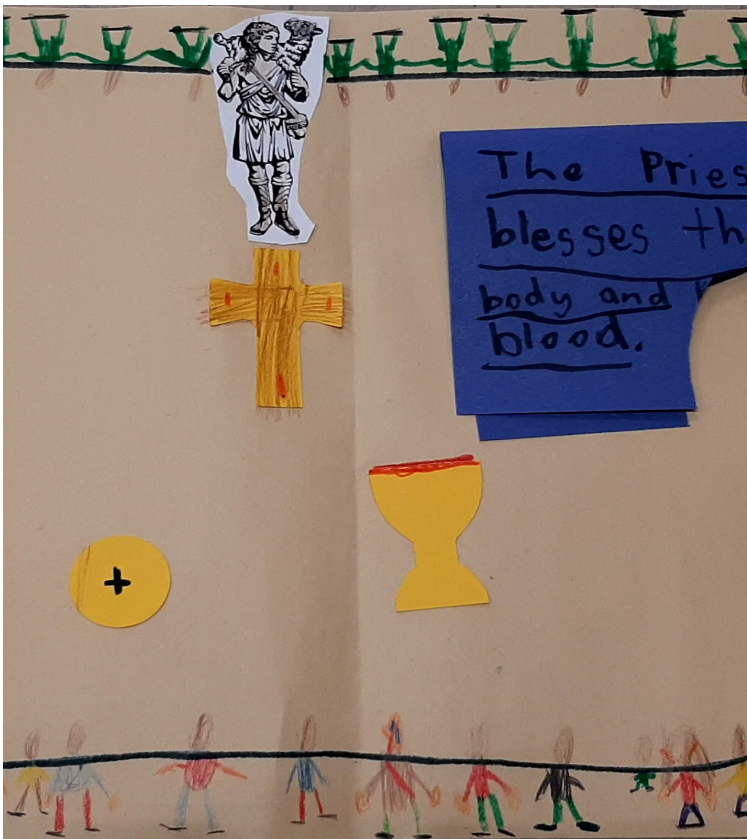
Prayer is listening to God. Our prayer is both a preparation and a vehicle for arriving at the greatest prayer of thanksgiving: The Eucharist.

Below, students reflect on the order of the Mass.



The “atrium” where the catechesis is held is more like a church than a traditional classroom: less a place of instruction than a holy ground where Christ is encountered in word and action.





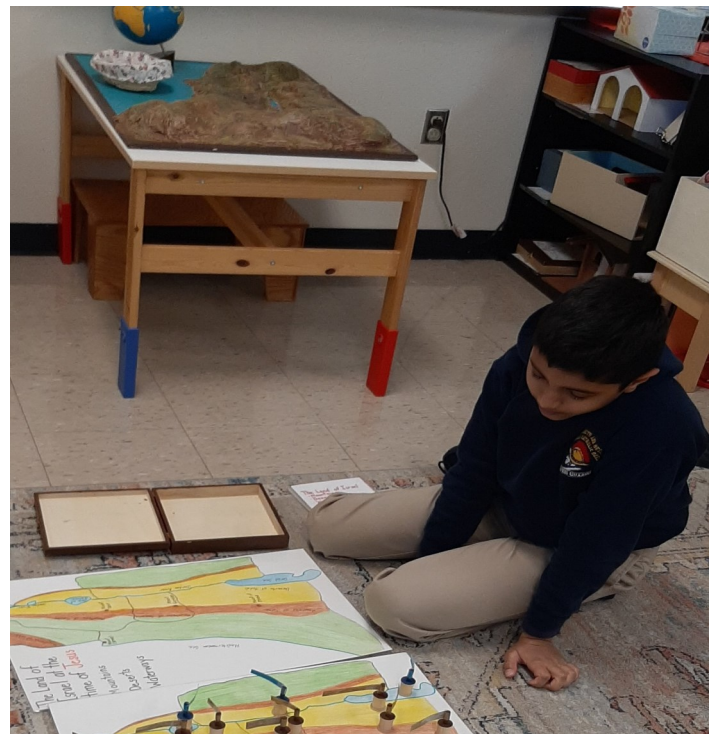
The Eucharist is the central celebration of the church whose mysterious power is so great that it penetrates beyond the limits of the church to the entire universe and encompasses also the world of the deceased who are still living branches of the "True Vine." How large is the Eucharistic table and the vine? It is for all people of all times.







In relation to the Easter-Pentecost events, we concentrate on the study of the city of Jerusalem. We focus on the names of the places where the most important events of the passion, death, and resurrection took place. Students have the opportunity to learn more about the regions, principal cities, mountains, and waterways in Israel that are named in the Gospel.







The Parable of the Mustard Seed allows us to ponder the mystery of the kingdom as a mystery of growth and transformation. Like a seed of faith, God's kingdom comes, it grows and grows, when we trust in God.

Below is a meditation on the Parable of the Sower. What type of soil do you have in your heart?

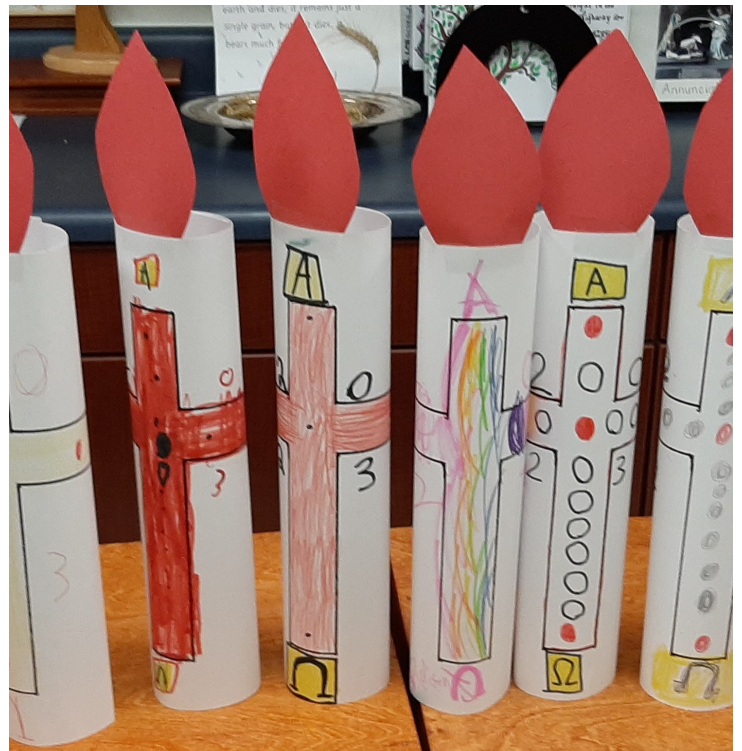


The story of the sower  
 1. A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky ground, where it had little soil, and when the sun rose, it was scorched, and it withered for lack of roots. Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it. But some seed fell on rich soil, and produced fruit, a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold.





The Liturgy of Light celebration retraces the great services of Holy Week and the Easter Triduum. We celebrate with a solemn reflection that Jesus comes to share his Light with us.







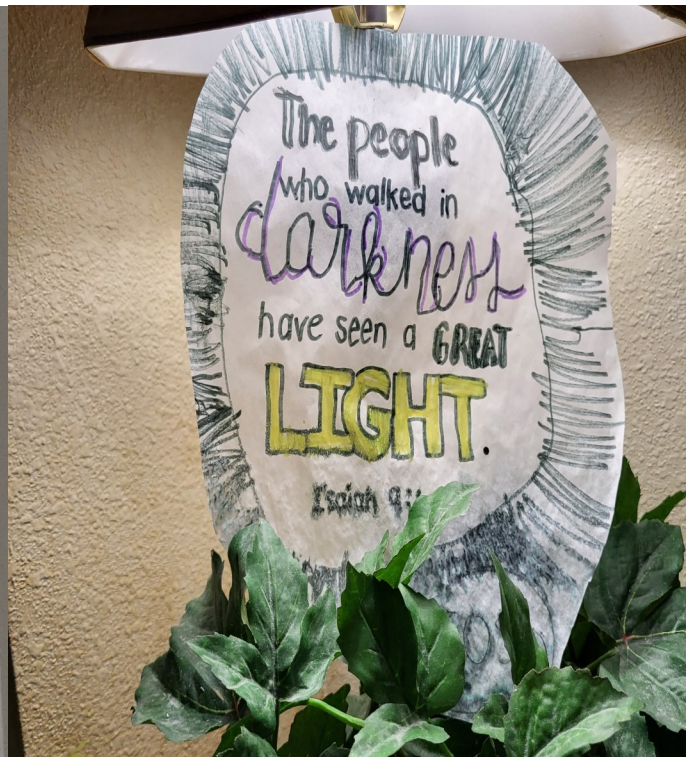
At times we may find an unexpected response in the child's recollection and joy through spontaneous prayer.

We remember the Resurrection, and that Jesus comes to share his Light with us in the Sacrament of Baptism.





Our great and  
graceful father  
may we only  
belong to you  
and only you, may  
we spread your  
glory as a spreading  
fire<sup>^</sup> in a burning forest.  
Lord you are  
the only thing we  
must love.



The life of the atrium springs from its being a place of prayer: a place of listening and responding to God, a place where work and study spontaneously become meditation, contemplation, and prayer.

\*(Reflections taken from the works of Sofia Cavalletti and Gianna Gobbi)