

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Throughout the Easter season, the children are given many presentations on the gifts of Baptism (the gifts of the Light, the Oils, the Water, the White Garment). The older children go further to explore not only these gifts but also the gestures and the Rite of Baptism. These presentations take place at the beautiful model Baptism corner in our Atrium. One of the most beautiful celebrations in the Atrium is the celebration of the great Feast of Pentecost! The children have a procession to set the prayer table with the new red cloth, complete with red candles representing the 7 gifts of the Holy Spirit, red flowers, a prayer card, the model paschal candle and the Holy Bible. We recount the Biblical event of Pentecost, thinking more deeply about these gifts and what they mean. The 7 red candles are lit from our model paschal candle and placed by a label for each gift. In our celebration, after listening to readings recounting Pentecost, the children are invited to ask the Holy Spirit for these gifts, and they may select a particular gift they most desire to receive by lighting their individual candle from the candle that represents the gift they would like to ask for. What joy the youngest children have in seeing that beautiful red prayer table cloth come out for the first time in our Liturgical year! Come Holy Spirit!

