

## ***Journeying Through the Materials in a Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Atrium: The Model Altar***

This week, we think about a material that is essential to understanding the liturgy of the Mass: The Model Altar. The Model Altar area in the atrium consists of a model sized (smaller than child-sized) altar, Tabernacle, and Ambo, along side a piece of cabinetry referred to as the Sacristy cabinet where all the articles of the Mass (in miniature) are stored. Children at a young age are fascinated with nomenclature, and love knowing the names of each article of the Mass! For the 3 year old, they are shown how to set the altar very simply with the basic items of: 1) the altar cloth 2) the chalice 3) the paten 4) the crucifix and 5) the candlesticks. After teaching the child the nomenclature for these items, and demonstrating how to properly set the model altar, if the child would like, we light the candles for them and invite them to pray. Some pray with song, others with silence and others with words, but it is very common for them at all ages to choose to sit in prayer in front of the model Altar. I am reminded of the tiniest children age 3 who commonly sat in front of the model altar once each Atrium session, whispering to Jesus or softly singing to Him. In these moments, we respect the child's conversation with God and allow them this sweet, uninterrupted time in prayer, which usually always centers around thankfulness. In this way, we learn so much from even the youngest of children about how to pray! As time goes on, the children are given the nomenclature and models of additional Articles of the Mass including the ambo, lectionary, Roman Missal, tabernacle, sanctuary lamp, ciborium, bells, thurible, corporal, purificator, lavabo, pall and cruets. The children sometimes enjoy even creating a book with labels and drawings of the Articles of the Mass. It is so beautiful to see the child joyfully recognize and be able to name these beautiful objects when they see the real versions at the Holy Mass!



To help create materials like these or for more information about Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, please see Sarah Herendeen at [sarah.herendeen@dor.org](mailto:sarah.herendeen@dor.org). As we create a special space for the children to receive this catechesis in the fall of 2022, volunteers are welcomed to woodwork, paint, sew, craft, write, and more!

## Month One: DEVELOPING BABY

# Spiritual Adoption Program 2022

From March 25 to December 25

(Feast of the Annunciation to Christmas)

*Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you. Jeremiah 1:5*

Your spiritually adopted baby has been quite active over the past month. Already your baby is 10,000 times bigger than at conception. Your baby has developed the foundations of her brain, spinal cord, and nervous system by the 20<sup>th</sup> day. Her heart began to beat on the 21<sup>st</sup> day, pumping blood through its own circulatory system and the blood type can be different from her mother. Your baby is most vulnerable during the next month of being aborted. Pray that the Lord of Life might move the hearts of the mother and the father to give her the most precious gift of all – the gift of life.

### Month 1

Thank you for praying for me. I am one month old now. I have a heart pumping my blood and a backbone. I am very, very tiny and I appreciate your prayers.

### A REMINDER:

*Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I love you very much. I beg you to spare the life of the unborn baby that I have spiritually adopted who is in danger of abortion.*

Prayer of Archbishop Fulton Sheen

Please remember to pray daily for your Spiritually Adopted Baby and the baby's mother and father.

Thank you for participating in this Spiritual Adoption Program! We hope you and your family will be blessed by it. There will be updates on your spiritually adopted baby's development each month on the fourth weekend in the bulletin and a poster displayed in each church.

Also, come and pray the Holy Rosary with Respect Life after Mass today.