

It's September Let's Begin!

Atrium 1 and 2

Check out these resources to help get you started! They are located on our web page.

- The short Welcome video by Cindy
- Read through the articles by CGSUSA;
Parent Pages:
 - The Practical Life and the Prayer Table
 - Practical Life and the Elementary Child
 - The Young Child at Home Room by Room
 - All About the Atrium, The Sound of Silence and
 - Prayer Cards for Parents

Practical Life: Room by Room

- Go through your home and find things that your child(children) can do that will build dexterity, and eye hand coordination. Some examples are pouring water from one glass to another; where one hand is stabilizing the container and the other is holding the handle and guiding the top to pour. Using a spoon to move small split peas from one container or using tongs to move hard beans from one bowl to another. There is also lacing shoes or using a template to put laces through. Older elementary children can fold a linen, or make a puzzle.

Let Make a Prayer Table or Prayer Corner in your home

- Locate a quiet place within your home that can be dedicated to a place where your child can be silent and still, this will help them learn to pray and listen.
- Items you will need, a small child size table (or something they can use to set items on), a small cushion for them to sit on, a small Icon or statue of the Good Shepherd, statue of Mother Mary, The Holy Family or another holy object. A small tripod to hold a prayer card, a crucifix or cross, and a Bible that your child can read (if available a small book stand to sit on the table for the Bible to rest on)
- A box with matches inside, a candle and a candle snuffer, (for adult use only)
- The prayer table will be covered with a cloth of the Liturgical color. For September, we are in the Ordinary time of the church which is green. Green represents growth, all things are growing and spreading out! We will stay green until the beginning of Advent.

Once the prayer table area is identified and items collected you will want to celebrate! We love to celebrate in the Atrium!

Celebration: The Enthronement of the Bible on the Prayer Table.

- The Bible is the WORD of God.
- It is how we know God. It is how God can communicate with us; through His words in scripture.
- It helps us to live a life for Jesus each day.
- We are excited to read in God's WORD!

For the Celebration, you may want to process around your home. If you have multiple children; each can take an item from the prayer table; all will follow the cross. When you reach the prayer table each child will put their item on the table to dress your special space. They will begin with the cloth of liturgical color, then place other items on the prayer table ending with the Bible on the Bible stand or lying directly on the table.

Reading from the Bible

We believe that reading the Bible is how we get to know God and His Son Jesus. When we read from God's Word we light the candle to represent the Light of Christ that comes to us through the words we read.

Before you begin an adult will light the candle. Read the scripture to the children or have them read it out loud to you. Let the words soak in, let everyone absorb the words into their minds and hearts. Read the verse(s) again, what word comes to mind as you all listen.? Read for the third time; why did you select that word, is there another that came to mind? Give plenty of time for all to share.

Prayer Cards

Prayer cards are used to bring the child into the scripture. They can be a picture with words of scripture or simply one or the other. You can make them together as you both ponder the scripture.

Prayer cards can be made of 8 1/2 x 11 card stock cut in half. They can be as elaborate as you wish. When done, they can be put into a small basket and left near the prayer table. Your child may use these cards to trace, adding their ponderings to each one they make.

Basic Supplies

Color pencils, crayons, colored pens, pencils, pens

Card stock mostly in white, (it's easier to see the color and writing, but any color will do)

Scissors

Glue stick or bottle

Basket for all the supplies to be put back in until the next time they are used.

This time together; working on practical life, making prayer cards or listening to the Word of God is a precious time for you and your child to learn and grow together. Savor each moment, for the time will pass and you will have such gold in your heart to remember this time.

God's Blessings to you!