

All About the Atrium

A Newsletter for Families of the Children in the CGS Atrium

Young children are particularly sensitive to color and are delighted to know the liturgical colors, as well as to discover them when they go to Mass and notice the color of the priest's chasuble.

- Sofia Cavalletti
The Good Shepherd and the Child: A Joyful Journey p 68



Liturgical Colors

Early in the Atrium year, we offer the children a presentation titled "The Liturgical Colors." This presentation names and identifies the colors associated with the Liturgical Year. It prepares the child for further work with the Liturgical Year and to participate more fully at Liturgy. The colors are:

- White** – During the Feast (Christmas and Easter)
- Purple** – Before the Feast (during Advent and Lent)
- Green** – After the Feasts (Ordinary Time)
- Red** – Feast of the Holy Spirit (Pentecost)

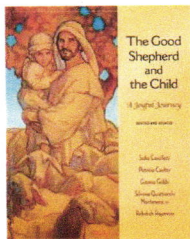
The young child is growing in his or her development of a sense of time. They are able to recognize the concept of "before and after." As the year continues, the catechist may use the "language of time" to introduce presentations of the Infancy Narratives, those stories about the Birth of Jesus. This language of time helps to define the seasons for the child.

Liturgical Calendar

The Liturgical Calendar is presented to the children in the form of a circular wooden puzzle.

We also offer the children a liturgical calendar puzzle that orients them to the liturgical year through pieces representing the Sundays of the year in the appropriate liturgical colors. Three pieces, like hands on a clock, indicate the three principal feasts of Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost. Our life in the atrium seeks to be in sync with the life of the Church. The presentations we give in the atrium will be offered, as much as possible, in conjunction with the liturgical time in the Church.

- Sofia Cavalletti, *The Good Shepherd and the Child: A Joyful Journey*, p 69



To read more about the Liturgical Colors, the Liturgical Calendar and other themes of found in the Atrium, you would enjoy reading [The Good Shepherd and the Child: A Joyful Journey](#).

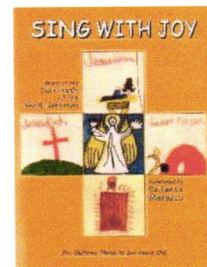
While an understanding of time does not develop until around the age of six, the Liturgical Calendar satisfies the young child's need for order. If you would like a Liturgical Calendar poster (also available in notebook size) for your home, visit [Liturgy Training Publications \(LTP\)](#).

Celebrating the Seasons at Home

Point out the colors the priest is wearing when your child is present at Liturgy.

Use the appropriate Liturgical Color on your family prayer table.

Ask your child if he or she remembers the words to the Liturgical Colors song. Children love to sing, and what better CD to have playing in your car than "Sing with Joy," which contains music of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. The songbook and CD is to use with children ages 3 to 6. The songbook is available at [CGSUSA](#).



Does your parish offer a free calendar? Does it contain the colors of the Church Year? Does it show feast days? Point out to your children in which Liturgical Season their birthday, name day (if your child was named after a particular saint) and baptismal anniversary fall.

The Season of **Advent** (which is the start of the Liturgical Year) begins on Sunday, November 30, 2014. A great gift for the child in your life is a set of the Little Gospels – the Scripture books used in the Atrium. Gift your child with their favorite stories surrounding the Birth of Jesus. **Our publisher, Liturgy Training Publications (LTP), has offered us a special sale on these little treasures. We at CGSUSA are so pleased to share this sale with you!**

<http://www.cgsusa.org/products/little-gospels-infancy-narratives-set/>

