

ST. ROBERT BELLARMINÉ

# CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

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## PRAYER IN OUR HOMES

**P**rayer is turning the heart toward God. When a person prays, he enters into a living relationship with God (CCC 2558-2565). Every week, the children do work in the atrium and their work is a form of individual prayer. At the end of our time together, we gather together to pray as a community or church, lifting up our thanks and petitions.

It is important to be praying at home every day with our families. Our families are the Domestic Church, a miniature church that is the primary place where faith is learned and grows. Our family's prayer life is incredibly important and something that should always be fostered and grown! To pray with children is a wonderful gift! The children's prayer is often one of thanksgiving and joy. Sometimes it is silence or a song. How do we, as parents, help our children to enter into prayer? Every day, perhaps at a meal or at bedtime, take time with your children and answer the following questions:

- 1) *What do you want to thank God for?*
- 2) *What are you sorry for today?*
- 3) *What do you want to ask God to do to help someone?*

Maybe after everyone has answered these questions, close your prayer time with a song.

Another way to enter into prayer is to have a prayer table in your home. Have a place where your family can pray, but also where your children can go to pray individually as well. Have a small table set with a Bible, candle, & a picture of Jesus.

Jesus knows you, loves you, & invites you into relationship with Him! The path to prayer begins for your family with only a small step! Continue to enrich your relationship with Him!

## BEAUTIFUL COLORS...

In Level I (ages 3-5 yrs.) this month, we will be presented *Liturgical Colors*, *Liturgical Calendar*, & *Vestments of the Priest*. The *Liturgical Colors* & *Liturgical Calendar* help us understand the changing colors of the liturgical year (*green, purple, white, red*) & what action they call us to, while also showing us that the Church seasons revolve around the life of Christ. In *Vestments of the Priest* presentation, we identify what the priest is wearing at Mass (*alb, cincture, chasuble, stole*) & how these vestments also reflect the liturgical seasons of the church year.

In October, we also take a *tour of our church* and take a close look at that beautiful and sacred place where we celebrate together every Sunday. We experience wonder & awe as we examine the sanctuary, the sacristy, the stained glass windows, & the narthex. What a gift our church is to us!



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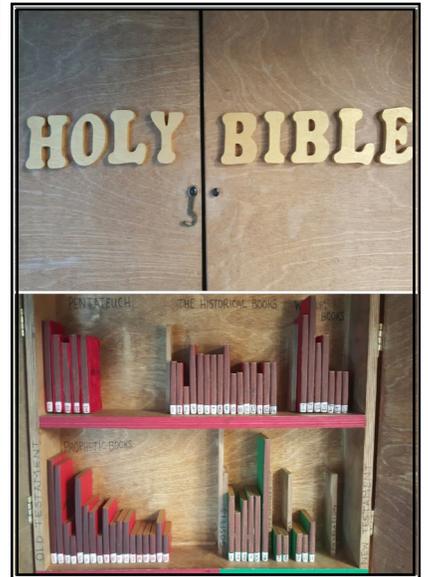
**Child praying at prayer table.**

## LEVEL TWO: SCRIPTURE & LITURGY

In Level II (ages 6-9 yrs.), the first grade will be looking more deeply into the *Holy Bible*. This material has each individual book of the Bible in the section it goes in. We lift up the Bible as one book, made of many books, that tells one sacred history...the history of salvation. It has been written through many human hands, which makes it a great work of collaboration between God and humans. The Bible is to be treasured and treated with great respect! As we continue to read the Bible and study it, we begin to have head knowledge, and the more we study the more that knowledge grows in our hearts. When we understand with our hearts, then the really challenging part happens, which is when we need to start living our the Word of God in our lives. We will continue to study the Bible for the rest of our lives...we are never finished deepening our understanding!

The 2nd grade we will keep working with the *History of the Kingdom of God Unity Strip* or *Blue Strip* which is a smaller version of the Fettuccia. We will continue to learn about Creation, Redemption, & the Parousia, while thinking of our Blank Page.

The 3rd grade will expand their knowledge of the Mass in the *Mystery of Faith*. We look at the Mystery of Faith and connect it to the Eucharist: *We proclaim your death, O Lord, and profess your resurrection, until you come again*. This presentation announces that in the Eucharist, we recall the Paschal Mystery made present to us now, moving us toward the fulfillment of God's Kingdom in the Parousia and bringing the Parousia into the liturgy. It is a very deep work!



Above: The Holy Bible material.

Below: 4th grader with bridgework.



## LEVEL THREE BEGINNINGS...

In October, the 4th grade will continue to do *bridgework*, which is material that helps bridge the biggest work from Level II to the biggest work in Level III. This also helps us to recall things we may have forgotten over the summer-time. The 4th and 5th grade will also work with the mute strip of the *Plan of God*. The *Plan of God* is the heart of the Level 3 atrium and we will be continuing to work with it as we see God's Plan unfold in other works we will see in the upcoming year.

In 6th grade, students will look at the *Holy Bible & the Parousia*. The Parousia is that 3rd moment in sacred history, that time when God will be all in all. In this work, we read verses from the prophets, the Gospels, and the New Testament epistles to find clues on what the Parousia will be like. We look forward to this moment of Hope and continue to think deeply about this 3rd moment and how are blank page brings helps to bring the Parousia closer.

## NEWS & EVENTS

- **MASS OF ENROLLMENT FOR 2ND GRADE** and their families will be November 4th at 6:45 pm. Children should arrive by 6:25 pm so they can write their names down. They will receive their Bibles at this Mass. Godparents are also invited to attend if possible.
- **THANKSGIVING COLLECTION DRIVE** for the Flushing Christian Outreach will be Nov. 15-20