

SOCIAL SUNDAY!

Sunday, December 15

After the 11 am Mass in the Parish Hall

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Come and visit with fellow parishioners and get into the Christmas Spirit!

Second Sunday of Advent
GOOD SHEPHERD CORNER

INCARNATION

There are three ways in which we discuss the Incarnation with children in the Level I Atrium: (1) Biblical Geography, (2) Prophecies, and (3) Infancy Narratives.

PROPHECIES

The purpose of meditating on the prophecies is to offer the child an image of the coming of the Messiah; an image of the nature of the Messiah. It is important to return to our sources to read about the prophecies. Of special note is the following paragraph from the revised and updated version of Joyful Journey.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;
and the government will be upon his shoulders
and his name will be called



"Wonderful Cousellor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace"
Isaiah 9:5

In presenting these prophecies to children over time, we introduce them by acknowledging the liturgical time we are in with the whole Church, the time of waiting and preparing for the feast of Christmas, the celebration of Jesus' birth. Long before Jesus was born, people were waiting and preparing for his coming. God wanted the people to know a gift was coming and what that gift would be like, so they would recognize the gift and welcome him! So, God gave clues about this gift to people called "prophets." Prophets are those who listen to God with their whole heart and then share God's secrets with others. Today we will listen to one of these secrets. What clue are we given here?

We then solemnly read the prophecy from the Bible and briefly reflect on what we have heard. It is very important to realize that these strong images which the prophecies offer need very little if any explanation from us.

- Sofia Cavalletti *The Good Shepherd and the Child: The Joyful Journey, Revised and Updated* p 75

Although there are many fulfilled prophecies regarding the coming of and the nature of the Messiah, we offer five to the youngest children, and we meditate on one or two a year:

Year 1 The Great Light
The Names of the Messiah

Year 2 The Birthplace of the Messiah
The Mother

Year 3 Prophecy of the Star and the Scepter

Happy Advent from Catechesis of the Good Shepherd families and catechists.