

Young Apprentices

A RESOURCE FOR THE OCIA

MYSTAGOGY: CHRIST IS PRESENT

Third Sunday of Easter • Year A • April 19, 2026

Introduction

A period of post-baptismal catechesis or mystagogy should be provided to assist the young neophytes and their companions who have completed their Christian initiation (see OCIA 330). Mystagogy is the final period of post-baptismal catechesis intended to help the neophytes and the Christian community grow in their understanding of the Paschal Mystery through continuing to reflect on God's Word, by taking their place in the assembly for the celebration of the Eucharist, and by continuing to answer Christ's call to love others through works of charity (see OCIA 254).

This session is offered to help neophytes and their companions continue to reflect on their experience of the Easter Vigil, most particularly their experience of the presence of Christ in the Word, in the Eucharist, and in one another.

Supplies

The optimum setting for this session is in the church, gathered around the altar. If a different space must be used, set the space with chairs in a circle around a prayer table containing a large white candle, a Bible, a loaf of bread, and a bunch of grapes. You will also need copies of the participants' handout.

Catechist Preparation

1. Read the Scriptures for the Third Sunday of Easter.
2. Think about the ways Jesus has been present to you in recent days. Where have you seen him present? Where have you heard his voice?

Word of God

Acts 2:14, 22-23

Psalm 16:1-2, 5,7-8,9-10,11

1 Peter 1:17-21

Luke 24:13-35

Gather

1. Greet the children and their families as they arrive.
2. Take time for introductions and check in with everyone to find out how they are doing.
3. Continue to invite the children to recall their experience of the Easter Vigil by inviting volunteers to share what it was like to receive Holy Communion for the first time. Also ask how it feels to be able to continue to receive Holy Communion with family members and with other members of the parish community.
4. Begin to discuss today's session focus by inviting volunteers to share where they have seen and heard Jesus in the past week. Help them make connections by asking questions such as: *Did you hear the Scripture readings at Mass? Did you read the Bible at home? Did you see someone help another person in need? What did you do or say to help others?*

Deepen

1. Gather the group around the altar or the prayer table, light the candle, sing an Easter Alleluia, and proclaim the Gospel: Luke 24: 13-35.
2. Ask the group how the disciples finally recognized Jesus.
3. Explain that when we gather for Mass, Christ is truly present to us in his Body and in his Blood under the appearance of bread and wine. He is also present to us in his Word, in the priest who is presiding, and in the others gathered with us.
4. Review the two main parts of the Mass, the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist, highlighting the following points:
 - it is important to listen to God's Word proclaimed at Mass
 - Christ is truly present in the Word proclaimed at Mass

- Christ calls us to live that Word every day
 - the Eucharist is food for our spiritual journey
 - Christ is truly present in his Body and his Blood which the bread and wine have become
 - in receiving the Eucharist, we are called to become the Body of Christ, loving and serving others as he did
5. Refer to the **Deepen** section of the participants' page.

Meditate

1. Lead everyone present in a guided meditation using these or similar words: *Close your eyes and quiet yourselves.* (Pause) *Picture a beautiful park on a warm, sunny day.* (Pause) *You and a friend are walking along discussing everything that has been happening at home and at school.* (Pause) *Jesus approaches and joins you as you continue to walk.* *After some time, you come to a bench and you all sit down for a few moments of quiet.* (Pause) *Jesus asks you what He can do for you. What do you tell Him?* (Allow a few moments for quiet reflection.) *After some time, He blesses you and departs.*
2. Read and discuss the **Meditate** section of the participants' page.

Share

1. Read and discuss the **Share** section of the participants' page.
2. Remind the group that we do not travel the journey of faith alone. The entire community of believers journeys with us, and Jesus is with us every step of the way.

Do

1. Invite the children to consider with whom they share meals.
2. Encourage them to think about:
 - Who they might help prepare a meal for and then share it
 - How they might become involved in a parish outreach to parishioners in need of meals, or at a local soup kitchen
3. Read and discuss the **Do** section of the participants' page.

Pray

Sing or play a song such as "Go Make a Difference" (S. Angrisano/OCP) or "We Are Companions on the Journey" (C. Landry, C.J. Kinghorn/OCP).