

Mystagogy Session

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the OCIA
The Ascension of the Lord • Year C • May 29 or June 1, 2025

Catechist Preparation

Readings

Acts 1:1-11

Psalm 47:2-3, 6-9

Ephesians 1:17-23 or Hebrews 9:24-28; 10:19-23

Luke 24:46-53

Liturgy of the Hours

Read and pray "He Ascended to Heaven and Led Captivity Captive," the First Reading from the Liturgy of the Hours, Office of Readings for the Ascension.

Mystagogy Session Guide

(Approximately 60 minutes)

If possible, gather in the worship space near the Paschal candle. If this is not possible, set the space with chairs and create a focal point with a candle, a Bible, and an image of the Ascension. Provide name tags and have some refreshments available.

Welcome

Greet the participants as they arrive and take time for introductions as the session begins.

Deepen

- Explore the following points with the neophytes:
 - The baptized are called to be witnesses to Christ so that others might come to know him and embrace the Christian way of life.
 - The saints witness to a life in which faith was actively put into practice.
 - We too are called to be witnesses today.
- Summarize or provide the group time to read **Deepen** on the participant handout.

Meditate

- Proclaim the Gospel (Luke 24:46-53), then highlight the following points with the neophytes:
 - Today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord.
 - The Ascension is described in today's Gospel.

- Jesus tells the disciples to stay in Jerusalem until they have received the gift of the Holy Spirit (Pentecost), which will strengthen them in their ministry of witness.
 - The disciples went with Jesus to Bethany, where Jesus was taken up into Heaven.
 - The Apostles returned to Jerusalem with great joy and continued to praise God in the Temple.
- Guide the participants to read the **Meditate** section of their handout and to discuss what they see as the key points.

Share

Read or summarize the **Share** section of the participant handout. Then highlight the following points with the neophytes:

- At the dismissal at Mass, we are sent to be witnesses.
- Actions speak louder than words. It is important that our actions match our words.
- We are responsible for what we say and do; we are not responsible for how what we say and do will be used for or against us. We are called to be witnesses to all; we are not to judge who is worthy to hear the words or to receive the gift of Jesus.

Act

- Read and discuss the **Act** section on the participant handout.
- Brainstorm with the neophytes all the ways that they can be witnesses to Christ in their homes, their communities, their workplaces, and the world at large. Encourage the neophytes to consider what it will cost them to live as witnesses to Christ, then ask whether they are willing to pay the price.

Pray

Invite a volunteer to offer a spontaneous prayer that asks God to help all Christians become stronger witnesses of the Good News.