

# Mystagogy Session

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the OCIA  
Third Sunday of Easter • Year C • May 4, 2025

*Risen Lord, we love you.  
Help us love others as you love them.  
Help us risk ourselves for others.  
Help us serve others and offer ourselves  
completely to your kingdom. Amen.*

## Sunday Word

Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41  
Psalm 30:2, 4-6  
Revelation 5:11-14  
John 21:1-19 or 21:1-14

## Reflection

### Deepen

The Apostles find joy in suffering as they witness in the name of Jesus. Names are important. They are the way in which we identify one another. The sound of a name can hold within it a world of meaning that signifies a particular person and personality. In virtue of our receiving Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist, we have been gifted with a new name, "Christian." This has deep implications for our identity in the Church and the world.

### Meditate

Even after a lengthy process of preparation leading up to full initiation into the Body of Christ, it takes time to appropriate the significance of your new name and stature. The disciples themselves slowly grew into an understanding of the implications of the Resurrection and their role as witnesses to it.

The Risen Lord appears to them a second time from the shore as they are fishing out on the lake. They do not recognize him, perhaps because of distance or their preoccupation with the task at hand. Even after he questions them, they do not immediately recognize him.

After the miraculous catch of fish, they recognize the Risen One. Peter jumps overboard—a very risky thing

to do—and swims to land. Once ashore, a dialogue ensues. Peter professes his love not once but three times. Each time, the Risen Lord bids him to nourish the flock in faith.

### Share

In the process of initiation into the Church, you have been given this special time of Mystagogy to savor and reflect upon your being raised up to the stature of Christ. You risked yourself in the catechumenate, stretching, growing, and actively serving the kingdom. Now, in this period of Mystagogy, you are invited by the Risen Lord to continue risk-taking.

Jump in, heedless of the water's depth or how tired you may become. The difference between your former risk-taking and now is that you are being fed not only by the Word but also by the Eucharist. Christ himself is your nourishment. In this sacred meal, you are strengthened by love for love. You are given what you need in order to follow wherever the Lord calls.

### Act

As Christians, love calls to us. We bask in that love. We flourish as children of the one who is love. This does not necessarily mean that life will be easy or smooth. But it means that no matter what we experience from this point forward, we triumph in the Lord. Trials may come. Challenges may appear. But we are bathed, oiled, and clothed in divine love.

### For Reflection . . .

What need or lack among your family, friends, or colleagues is the Risen Lord calling you to address through word or action?