

Mystagogy Session

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the OCIA
Fifth Sunday of Easter • Year C • May 18, 2025

*Risen Lord, the former Heaven and former earth pass away.
Death, mourning, wailing, and pain give way
to your eternal light, peace, and joy.
All things are made new in you.
May we glory in your love
as we live according to your new Commandment. Amen.*

Sunday Word

Acts 14:21-27
Psalm 145:8-13
Revelation 21:1-5a
John 13:31-33a, 34-35

Reflection

Deepen

Newly baptized and confirmed at the Easter Vigil, you proceeded to the table of the Lord, the Eucharistic feast. You partook of the sacrament that is not only the culmination of your initiation but also the meal of immortality and the sustenance of all believers who journey toward Heaven.

Meditate

As depicted by John in his Gospel, Jesus refers to his impending glorification as he shares the Last Supper with his disciples. He had already engaged in the symbolic action of washing their feet and speaking of a model of service, which he gave them to follow. Now Jesus looks toward the Cross as his greatest example and teaching, describing that loving self-sacrifice as his and his Father's glory.

We eat and drink the Eucharistic meal. We take into our own bodies and souls the sacrificial love of the Cross and the glory of the Son, Jesus Christ, who in himself glorifies the Father. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are given strength to become like Christ, to pour out our lives in service for others as we anticipate the full coming of the kingdom. Gathered around the altar, we behold the New Commandment of love in the sacred feast gloriously offered to us by the Risen Lord.

Share

During the stages of initiation that led to the Easter Vigil, your catechists spoke to you about the significance of the Eucharist. In those sessions and times when you considered the sacrament, you were looking from the outside in. Now, however, you perceive the Eucharist and its significance from the inside out. You will be doing so for the rest of your earthly life.

The celebration of the Eucharistic liturgy is made up of many different parts: the environment of the worship space, the presentation of the gifts, the singing of hymns and acclamations, prayers spoken by the priest celebrant, ritual gestures, postures and actions, the worshiping assembly itself, and the faithful processing forward to receive the sacred meal, the Eucharist.

For Reflection . . .

Is there a particular aspect of the Liturgy of the Eucharist that stands out for you at this time in your faith journey? Why is that? What makes that aspect so special for you?

Act

Jesus commands his followers to love one another as he loves them. All should know we are his disciples by the way in which we love. As you unite yourself to Jesus upon the Cross through your sharing in the Eucharist, go forth nourished by the sacrament and become a living sign of newness, glory, and love.

For Reflection . . .

Because of your sharing in the Eucharist, are there aspects of your life that you are seeing differently?