

Mystagogy Session

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the OCIA
Sixth Sunday of Easter • Year C • May 25, 2025

*Almighty Father, your Son, Jesus Christ, has ended the sovereignty of death,
broken the power of sin, and freed us from the grave,
lifting us to newness of life and light eternal.
May we live up to this gift and become what you mean for us to be. Amen.*

Sunday Word

Acts 15:1-2, 22-29
Psalm 67:2-3, 5-6, 8
Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23
John 14:23-29

Reflection

Deepen

Through the long process of formation prior to full initiation, you became acquainted with Church teaching. You learned much by feasting and reflecting on the Word of God and drew upon the rich treasury of Church teaching to help open up and illuminate that sacred Word. You also engaged in the Christian way of life through service. Now fully initiated, you are also feasting on the Eucharist. Your Christian formation—growing, learning, and serving—continues from this time onward. We never stop with the process of deepening our conversion to Christ.

Meditate

The fledgling Christian community at Antioch is disturbed by those who come requiring the Gentile Christians to be circumcised. The proponents of circumcision, in effect, are telling the Gentiles to convert to Judaism first before becoming followers of Jesus Christ.

Initially, some of the Apostles and elders of the Church in Jerusalem—the acknowledged leaders of the mission-bound Christian movement—side with the proponents of circumcision. Once Paul and Barnabas travel back to Jerusalem and lay out the arguments against it, the Gentile converts are instructed by the leadership that they do not have to undergo circumcision in order to become believers.

The scriptural account of these early years of the Church, which we hear in the First Reading, clarifies that some of the Church leadership in those days

grew in their appreciation of the Gentile converts and how to deal with them as followers of Jesus. Even as the Gentiles were learning about Christ, the leaders were also learning how to incorporate them into the body of the Church.

Share

Every Sunday as you participate in the Mass, you will be strengthened in your following of Christ. Throughout the seasons of the Church liturgical year, the mystery of Christ's life and mission will continue to unfold for you. Sunday after Sunday, you will attend the table of God's Word, celebrating the story of Salvation. Sunday after Sunday, you will attend the table of the Eucharist, sharing in the Lord's Supper.

Celebrating at the table of God's Word, you respond by singing the Responsorial Psalm and the Gospel Acclamation, and by praying the Prayer of the Faithful. Attending the table of the Eucharist, you respond by coming forward to worthily receive the holy meal come down from Heaven.

For Reflection . . .

What insight, learning, or new awareness do you come away with on this particular Sunday as a result of participating in the Mass?

Act

Although the Mass has a structure and a ritual format, a living presence is communicated through Word and sacrament. This presence is Christ, who calls us to be one with him and with one another and who challenges us to grow, learn, and change throughout the seasons of our own lives.

For Reflection . . .

How can you dispose yourself properly, even before Mass begins, to hear the Word of God fruitfully and receive the Eucharist worthily?