

Young Apprentices

A RESOURCE FOR THE OCIA

MYSTAGOGY: OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Fifth Sunday of Easter • Year C • May 18, 2025

God, our loving Father,
thank you for our families.

Thank you for the families
we live with,
and for their love and care.

Thank you for the parish family
we pray with,
and for their faith and example.

Bless all families everywhere.
Amen.



Sunday Word

Acts 14:21-27

Psalms 145:8-9, 10-11, 12-13

Revelation 21:1-5a

John 13:31-33a, 34-35

The above readings are available at
usccb.org/bible/readings.

To Help You Remember



1. Paul and Barnabas continued their travels, making many more disciples and encouraging them to persevere in the faith. They shared with all what God had done for them.
2. John's vision is of a new heaven and a new earth, where every tear will be wiped away and death and mourning will be no more.
3. Jesus gives his disciples a new commandment: Love one another. By this love, all will know that we are his disciples.

With My Family



Deepen

Jesus reminds his disciples that he will not be with them in the way that he has been for much longer. He will send the Holy Spirit to be their helper and guide. He gives his disciples a new commandment: Love one another. This love is how all will know that they are his disciples.

With your family, recall the loving words and deeds you have done in recent days to show Christ's love to one another and to friends, classmates, and coworkers.

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Meditate

Because we are a part of the Church family throughout the world, helped and guided by the Holy Spirit, we can make a great difference in the world. Sometimes it is difficult to be a part of a Church family, just like it is sometimes difficult to be a part of our own families, but the Church family is a gift to us from the Risen Lord.

With your family, share what you love about your parish family. What people do you most enjoy knowing? What things at your parish do you most love to take part in? Why?

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Share

Look around you during Mass. Who are the members of your parish family? They are your sisters and brothers in faith, one in Christ with you through Baptism, and joined as one with you at the table of the Lord in the Eucharist.

With your family, make this a fun challenge. Make a list of the names of parishioners you know. See if you can list at least fifty parishioners by name. Then challenge yourselves to learn twenty-five more parishioners' names in the next month. Use your parish directory to help you put names with faces, and introduce yourself to others at parish gatherings. Get to know the members of your parish family by name!

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Do

When you are in the Communion procession to receive the Body and Blood of Christ, remember that every Sunday, millions of Catholics throughout the world are also in procession to receive Jesus in the Eucharist. They are your sisters and brothers in Christ.

With your family, learn more about your Catholic sisters and brothers throughout the world by reading about Catholic missionary and humanitarian organizations, such as Catholic Relief Services (crs.org).

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Pray

With your family, continue to pray for all families this week by using the prayer on the front of this handout. End your prayer by singing together "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands," remembering your sisters and brothers in Christ throughout the world.