

Mystagogy – Week of May 16th

Readings for the Solemnity of the Ascension on Sunday May 23

1. Liturgy of the Word - (10min):

(Solemnity of the Ascension)

Hymn: *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus*

First Reading: Acts 1:1-11

Psalm: Ps. 47:2-3, 6-9

Gospel: Luke 24:46-53

Theme: Two Accounts of Jesus' Ascension and the Promise of the Holy Spirit

2. Reflection on the First Reading and the Gospel (15min):

- RCIA Catechist gives the context for each reading, and gives participants definitions of difficult terms and concepts in each reading.

First Reading - Acts 1:1-11

- **Context should be explained:**

- a) St. Luke is the author of both the Gospel of Luke, and the Acts of the Apostles – he writes both to a certain Theophilus (Gk. meaning “friend of God”). St. Luke was a physician, and an evangelist. Scripture attests to his role as fellow laborer with St. Paul in Greece and Asia Minor. Also according to tradition, St. Luke had a special love for the Mother of Our Lord – the Blessed Virgin Mary. There are several painted icons of Jesus and Mary in both the East and the West attributed to him.
- b) Jesus instructs the apostles to wait in Jerusalem until they have received the gift of the Holy Spirit. (vs. 4) – the Church cannot exist without the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- c) “Lord are you going to restore the rule of Israel now?” (vs. 6)– the apostles still believe that the Messiah will rule as a great king in Israel. Jesus’ Kingdom is not “of this world.” The glory of the Kingdom of God will be revealed at the 2nd Coming of Our Lord (the parousia).
- d) “two men dressed in white” – refers to two angels. The ascension anticipates the return of Christ in glory.

Gospel: Luke 24:46-53

Points of Explanation

- Jesus’ suffering, death, and resurrection fulfills what is written in Sacred Scripture (vs.46-47)
- “The promise of my Father” is the gift of the Holy Spirit. (vs.48-49)
- Jesus instructs them to remain in Jerusalem until they have received the gift of the Holy Spirit. (vs. 49)

3. The RCIA Catechist now asks participants to reflect on the First Reading and the Gospel (10min). Participants reflect on a separate piece of paper and note any connections between the two, with these questions in mind:

- a) What is each Reading about -What does the Church teach?
- b) How do the Readings relate to me personally?

4. Open Discussion (15-20min)

5. Break/Refreshments (15min)

6. Lectio (Praying with Scripture Format) (15min)
(See Attached – Lectio)

7. Closing Prayer/Hymn (5min)