

Mystagogy – Week of May 23rd

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

(Readings for Pentecost- Sunday May 30)

Hymn: *Come Holy Ghost*

First Reading: Acts 2:1-11

Psalm: Ps. 104:1, 24, 29-31, 34

Gospel: John 20:19-23

A Major Theme: The Holy Spirit, the inner Life of the Church

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 2:1-11

- **Context should be explained:**
 - a) The feast of Pentecost should be explained – Pentecost is a Jewish harvest festival also called the Feast of Weeks. It is counted as fifty days after Passover (hence Pentecost) Pentecost also takes place 10 days after Jesus' Ascension – in the Upper Room in Jerusalem.
 - b) Driving Wind – in Hebrew “*Ruah*” is the same for “wind”, “breath”, and “spirit.”
 - c) Tongues of fire – read also Isaiah 66:15-20 for comparison.
 - d) Compare the crowds confusion at hearing the speakers use foreign tongues, with the confusion of tongues with the Tower of Babel (Gen. 11). Pentecost is the opposite – “reversal” of the Tower of Babel.

Gospel: John 20:19-23

Points of Explanation

- “Receive the Holy Spirit” – (vs. 22) Point to Jesus as the one who established the sacraments. Sacraments are sacred signs instituted by Christ to give grace. It is by the power of the Holy Spirit that sanctifying grace is received through the sacraments.
- “Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them..”(vs. 23) - Sacrament of Confession/Reconciliation – authority and power to minister the sacrament is give to the 12 apostles (bishops).
- Also shows the triple function of the bishop – to teach, to sanctify, and to govern.

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)