

## Mystagogy

(Period IV of the RCIA)



“The third step of the RCIA is the celebration of the sacraments. It is followed by a periods post-baptismal catechesis – called **mystagogy**.

This is a time for the parish community and the neophytes to grow together in deepening their grasp of the paschal mystery, and in making it a part of their lives through:

- meditation on the Gospel
- sharing in the Eucharist
- doing works of charity.

*“Through the sacraments, the neophytes have been renewed in mind, tasted more deeply the sweetness of God’s word, received the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, and grown in the goodness of the Lord – out of this experience they derive a new perception of the faith, the world, and the Church.” RCIA 245*

In light of the above, what does a typical weekly session during the period of mystagogy look like?

(Over)

## Mystagogy – Cycle C

Typical Mystagogy Session (90min) – Tuesday of the Fifth Sunday of Easter

### **1. Liturgy of the Word (10min):**

*(Readings of Sixth Sunday of Easter)*

Hymn: Easter Theme (e.g. *Jesus Christ is Risen Today*)

First Reading: Acts 15:1-2, 22-29

Psalm: 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8

Gospel: John 14:23-29

### **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.

Example: First Reading - Acts 15:1-2, 22-29:

- Council of Jerusalem – What is it? Why Jerusalem? (vs. 1-2)
- Circumcision – What is Circumcision? Why according to the Mosaic Law? (vs. 1-2)
- Why was there controversy with Paul and Barnabas?
- What is a presbyter?
- What is Antioch? What is the Significance of the Letter to Antioch?

Gospel: John 14:23-29:

- Where was Jesus when He spoke these words?
- Who is Jesus speaking to?
- Why is Jesus speaking these words – is He answering a question? (If so what is the question?)

**3. The RCIA Catechist asks participants to reflect on the First Reading and the Gospel (10min), and note any connections between the two. Participants reflect on the readings 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 on the Gospel)

### **7. Closing Prayer/Hymn (5min)**

## **Praying with Scripture**

**Read** 1. Read the passage slowly, simply to become familiar with it.

**Reflect** 2. Read the passage again. If it is a familiar passage, ask the Lord to let you read it as if it is the first time that you have ever “heard” it. What does it mean? If you had to “re-tell” or re-write it in your own words, or explain it to another person, what would you say?

**Spontaneous Prayer** 3. Read the passage again.  
a) Pick one person from the passage: \_\_\_\_\_  
Imagine that you are in this person’s “shoes”.

b) How does it make you feel to be in this situation?

c) Does it remind you of something or someone in your life?

d) Is there anything you would say or do differently?

(NOTE: If the passage does not specifically name persons in the text, simply see if the words themselves evoke any particular feeling. Does it call to mind an incident or relationship in your past or present life?)

Have a “heart to heart” talk with Jesus sharing your honest feelings about anything that has come to mind in reference to your reflecting on this passage. It might be something that is weighing heavily on your heart, or something that moves you to a deep sense of gratitude and joyful praise.

Choose one word from this passage that has a special meaning for you: \_\_\_\_\_

**Resting in God** Read the passage again, then set it down and spend this simple silence, waiting and quietly listening for whatever the Lord might “whisper” in your heart.