

LITURGY BYTES

Mystagogy - Grow Closer to God

Mystagogy is a Greek word meaning to lead through the mysteries. The CCC (Catechism) describes mystagogy as a liturgical catechesis that aims to initiate people into the mystery of Christ. Many of us are intrigued (I know that I am) by the challenge of a mystery that invites us to solve a crime or a puzzle. However, in Biblical and Church traditions, a mystery is not something we solve. It is something we enter into with God in a sense of wonder, respect, and awe. We accept the mysteries of our faith even though we may not fully understand them.



Recently, at the Easter Vigil, we witnessed some of our parishioners experiencing full initiation into the Catholic Church. They have now entered mystagogy as they continue to grow closer to God and have a deeper understanding of the Catholic faith. I would like to suggest that we, cradle Catholics for the most part, reflect a little on what mystagogy can mean to our lives.

It is always good to reflect on those experiences we may take for granted that we have been doing or witnessing for many years. For example, what feelings came to mind watching these adults be baptized at the Easter Vigil as the water was poured over their heads or as they were adorned in the white garment? Perhaps you recently attended a First Communion for a relative or friend. What feelings came over you as a child received Jesus for the very first time? Did you recall how blessed we are to have this privilege each time we attend Mass, or did you recall your own first Communion day and all that it meant to you?

As I mentioned above, it is good to reflect on those things we experience regarding our Faith and our celebration of the Faith. In this “sacramental season,” what fills your heart and soul?

Have a blessed, prayerful, and safe week ahead! ~~ *Michele Hall*