

LITURGY BYTES

“Mystagogy” – What’s it all about?



The above quoted word stands for uncovering the mysteries and refers to the time after our new Catholics have been received into the Church in which they reflect on what just took place in their lives. It is ancient as it goes back to the early centuries when the belief was that the people were unable to fully understand the Sacraments of Baptism or Eucharist until they experienced it.

During this period of mystagogia, the newly baptized reflect on the mysteries and symbols that were celebrated at the Easter Vigil. They reflect on their experience—what did I experience, what did it mean, what are the implications? Each of the Sunday homilies during the Easter season is intended to unpack the Easter event and its connection to living the life of a Christian.

The entire community should also spend time asking the same questions that the newly baptized ask: “What did I experience?,” “What did it mean, and what are the implications for living the Christian life?” The newly baptized remind us that we should all be attentive to the process of conversion and renewal in our lives. This special time is a time for all of us together to grow in deepening our grasp of the Paschal mystery and in making it part of our lives through reflection on the Gospel, sharing in the Eucharist and doing acts of charity.

The Easter season is an extension of time where we reflect about what it means to live the Paschal mystery—take up our cross and follow Jesus. We need the 50 days to thoroughly unpack the richness, fullness, mystery, and majesty of what took place on Easter. We need these 50 days to be fully renewed in the waters of death and resurrection. We continue to share in Jesus’ Passover today when we share in the Eucharist. As we welcome the newly baptized, let us pray they become active members of this Faith community and join us as we, once again, recommit to go out and live the mission of our Baptisms.

May the week ahead fill you with His grace and joy! Alleluia! ~~ *Michele Hall*