

MYSTAGOGY

Presenting the Gifts of Bread and Wine

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the OCIA

Catechist Preparation**Read**

- Matthew 5:23-24
- *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*

Music Suggestions

- “Gather Us In,” M. Haugen, all hymnals
- “Let Us Go to the Altar,” D. Schutte, OCP Publications
- “Here I Am, Lord,” D. Schutte, all hymnals

Pray

Pray the prayer on the front of the participant handout.

Prepare

Prepare the space with chairs, a Bible, a loaf of bread, a bunch of grapes, and a large, white candle. If needed, have nam etags. Have some refreshments available.

If the group is larger than five or six, guide people to share in smaller groups whenever possible.

Gather

1. Greet people as they arrive. Take time for introductions and check in with everyone to find out how they are doing.
2. Lead them in a reflection on their participation in the Mass using these or similar words:

We all stand and pray the words of the Creed together . . .

We offer prayers on behalf of the needs of our church, our world, and our community . . .

The collection is gathered . . .

The gifts of bread and wine are brought forth to the celebrant . . .

What gifts do you bring to the altar as your offering? (joys, sufferings, challenges, blessings) . . .

Invite them to share a word or phrase from their reflection.

Meditate

1. Refer to the ***Savor the Sweetness of Salvation*** section of the participant page.
2. Explore with these points:
 - Bread, in its many forms, is a staple of life in all cultures.
 - Jesus took bread and blessed it; it was transformed into his Body and Blood.
 - Jesus took wine, the fruit of the vine, and blessed it; it was transformed into his Body and Blood.
 - Jesus takes our gifts, the ordinary people we are, and blesses us that we too might be transformed.
3. Discuss:
 - The altar is an altar of sacrifice; Jesus willingly offered himself up to death that we might be redeemed.
 - The altar is the table upon which the bread and wine are transformed into the Body and Blood of Christ. We are invited to come to the table and savor the goodness of the Lord.

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- We come as we are—ordinary people who, through our Baptism, have been marked and claimed by Christ.
- We place our gifts—our sacrifices—on the altar. They are united to Christ's offering to the Father.

Do

Refer to the *Inspire Others* section of the participant handout.

Consider what gifts you can bring to the altar next Sunday. All gifts, big and small, are placed on the altar.

Pray

Use the prayer found on the participant handout.

