

Worship Meeting Agenda

(Editor's note: The agenda items provide a listing of possible topics to consider at your next parish liturgy committee meeting. Select the topics that will guide your planning for the liturgical season ahead.)

OPENING PRAYER

- Proclaim the Gospel reading from the Fifth Sunday of Lent. Pass out copies of the Nicene Creed and spend ten minutes in guided reflection on how this Gospel intersects with “the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.”
- Provide individual copies of the ancient sequence “Stabat Mater,” encouraging each member to read a stanza aloud. Allow thirty seconds between stanzas for quiet reflection.
- Locate the Universal Prayer attributed to Pope Clement XI in the Thanksgiving after Mass prayers in the appendix of *The Roman Missal*. Pray the first eight orations antiphonally, then allow two minutes of silence before beginning the meeting. (Close the meeting with the last eight orations, using the same method of reading the prayer.)

ESTABLISHING PRIORITIES

- Ask the Ash Wednesday Committee to brief the worship commission on the preparations of the environment, hospitality, and liturgy. Review and note the success of intentional efforts at communicating Christian welcome, including an information packet and a worship aid for Mass.
- Send electronic files of the previous year's Triduum and Easter season summaries and notes. Members should arrive prepared to discuss immediate preparation, personnel needs, and rehearsal schedules for the conclusion of Lent into the Fifty Days.
- Make certain that the budget is ample to keep the flowers abundant during the entire season of Easter. If the budget lags, locate the amateur flower arrangers in the parish, and let the local funeral homes know that you will pick up and repurpose their unclaimed floral. (Hint: many YouTube tutorials cover flower arranging. Aim for arrangements that will draw people to the sacred.)
- Offer the services of several worship commission members to provide a mystagogical reflection with the neophytes on the Paschal candle, using the *Exsultet* text and giving each of the newly baptized a small, six-hour sanctuary light (available from Catholic goods suppliers) as a symbol of the Light of Christ entering into their lives.
- Schedule the post-Easter meeting. Make a list of commendations, locating the praise of God in what individuals did for the parish. Resolve to return, during the next meeting, to the commendations—adding recommendations.

MOVING FORWARD

- Appoint an ad hoc group to review the new *Order of Celebrating Matrimony*, making certain to include either the music director or a cantor/psalmist. Using *Sourcebook for Sundays, Seasons, and Weekdays 2017* (LTP), task them with reviewing “The Order of Celebrating Matrimony” (p. 101) and recommending how a wedding workshop might work for the parish two to three times a year. Discuss the potential of this workshop and ways to move forward.
- Review J. Philip Horrigan's “Decor for First Communion, Confirmation, and Marriage” in this issue. Provide the parish art and environment team with a copy, along with recommendations specifically for the parish.
- Discuss the parish ministry to the homebound. Ask whether sufficient ministers take Holy Communion to them and whether the homebound receive the bulletin. Consider whether “those among us who are sick” is included in the Prayer of the Faithful (names not necessary).
- Read and discuss this issue's article “Celebrating the Sacraments in a Bilingual Parish Community,” by Terry Navarro. Challenge members to do some social analysis, using flip-chart pages to document discussion. Determine and list who is within and not within the Sunday assembly. Ask each other: Do we welcome the disabled—those temporarily or permanently disabled? Where are the teens (older adults, young children, young adults, single persons) in our assembly? What ethnicities (language groups, cultures, persons from our local neighborhoods) are not with us? Recognize that unity of worship, rather than uniformity, is the goal.

CLOSING PRAYER

- Ask a leader to select a formulary for the Universal Prayer (5, 6, 7, or 8) from the appendix of *The Roman Missal*, and lead the group in prayer.
- Light the Paschal candle, and ask four members to prayerfully read a section of the *Exsultet*.

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