

Worship Meeting Agenda

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

PRAYER

- Focus the Worship Committee with a reminder that Sts. Peter and John prepared the Passover meal for Jesus and his disciples. Read Matthew 26:1–19. Conclude by recognizing that we are the disciples who prepare the parish liturgical life.
- Select five saints with feasts during January and February and read a brief biography of each, and the Collect from the Mass on that saint's feast day.
- Invite members to meet and begin in an unfamiliar place on the parish campus, perhaps in a classroom, the rectory living room, or even in front of a garage. Read the first section of Ronald Raab's article in the current issue of *Pastoral Liturgy*[®] (recognize that this may happen in darkness) and lead the group in the Lord's Prayer. Invite them to move quietly, then, to the place for the official meeting. Serve flatbread and wine at the meeting, as strong symbols for the season fast approaching.

REVIEW AND RESPOND

- Review the group's commendations and recommendations from the group's review of last year's Lent and Triduum. Ask: what rituals need to be staffed? What communication and catechesis does the parish need? What services and Masses will we emphasize this year during Lent?
- Plan to support and revitalize the ministry of reader. Contact the diocesan worship office for help in reigniting the fire of proclamation. A simple soup supper could be planned for an evening of renewal.
- Consider the Easter flower fund from last year, and make sure that the art and environment coordinators emphasize the entire season of Easter in their planning. Ask them to consider asking couples with weddings scheduled during Easter Time to contribute to half of that weekend's floral cost.
- Plan to catechize the parish using Kristopher Seaman's "What Are the Scrutinies?" (in this issue of *Pastoral Liturgy*[®], as a bulletin insert and on the parish website.

LOOKING AHEAD IN MINISTRY

- Monday, January 23, is the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of the Unborn. Prepare a simple evening Mass and invite parents and families of those who are expecting a child or those who have lost a child to join in the Mass. Plan to serve soup and salad to the families after Mass.

- The Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time is World Marriage Day: bless all of the engaged couples at one or two Sunday Masses, using the text in the Order of Celebrating Matrimony. Designate one Mass that weekend for blessing all married couples.

- Discuss how to extend the Year of Mercy, using the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy as a Lenten guide for the parish. Spend fifteen minutes to brainstorm the groups that could enact these works, especially during the season of Lent. Publicize these opportunities as a way of deepening the Lenten experience. Emphasize discipleship. How can we "smell like the sheep," as Pope Francis hopes for us?

- Ask each member to read Ricky Manalo's article "Drawing on Parish Diversity for United Holy Week Liturgies," in this issue for the next meeting. Each person should prepare four minutes of discussion to answer "Is this our parish?" and "What can we do to make the Triduum a better celebration for all?" Gather, contemplate, and summarize all discussion.

- Plan your Lenten Fridays for those who may not be able to travel in the evening: mid-morning Mass and Stations for moms, Stations of the Cross at 2 PM (prior to carpool pick up and for the elderly), or consider early-riser Lenten Morning Prayer (with coffee, tea, and granola bars) at 6:30 to 7 AM for those on the way to work. Outdoor signage may attract passersby. Consider this as an evangelization effort.

GOING FORTH IN MISSION

- Pray the parish Mission Statement, if you have one. Use the official Hymn for the Jubilee Year of Mercy *Misericordes sicut pater* (Paul Inwood, composer), and invite one of the cantors to stop in and lead the verses. The official YouTube video of the Opening of the Holy Door can also provide accompaniment. This is sung prayer.

- Sing "Where Charity and Love Prevail" (Hymn tune CHRISTIAN LOVE, text: Ubi caritas, ©1960, World Library Publications), perhaps alternating verses men/women.

- Place a bowl of ashes in the center of a table and light several candles. Locate and read reflectively the song "Ashes" (text and tune: Tom Conry, accompanied by Michael Joncas, ©1978, OCP) as closing prayer. Leave quietly after the prayer. ♦

PATRICIA J. HUGHES, DMIN, is the director of the Office of Worship for the Diocese of Dallas

At www.PastoralLiturgy.org

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