

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.)

OPENING PRAYER

- Pentecost approaches: pray the Sequence *Veni, Sancte Spiritus* with the group. Initially, invite a skilled reader from the parish to be the “guest proclaimer” of this ancient lyric poem. Committee members follow, each taking two lines, slowly, and pausing about twenty seconds after each. Conclude by listening to a recording of *Veni, Creator Spiritus* before the group “Amen.”
- Read the Collect (first selection) for the Mass during the Day for the Solemnity of the Ascension. Plan a five-minute *lectio divina* for the committee.
- Begin in the worship space, meeting around the baptismal font. Renew your baptismal promises as group prayer. The leader finishes by reading the Prayer of Self-Offering from Thanksgiving after Mass (located after the appendices in *The Roman Missal*).

GAINING MOMENTUM

- Focus on the Triduum during this post-Easter commendation and recommendation meeting. Dwell on the positive, asking, “What worked in parish preparation?” Save notes. Limit the agenda to allow time for festivity: find a well-produced Easter Vigil video online, and share with a special snack or dessert.
- In advance of this meeting, ask members to preview J. Philip Horrigan’s “The Way of Discipleship” in this issue of *Pastoral Liturgy*®. Spend twenty minutes to gather responses to the question: “How can we concretely embed the idea of discipleship in the hearts and activities of this parish, during Ordinary Time after Pentecost?”
- The Solemnity of the Ascension is celebrated in most US dioceses on the Seventh Sunday of Easter. Determine how this can be communicated to the parish, and decide how to help them anticipate the richness of the Scripture for this Sunday. Into the future, is there a space in the bulletin or on the parish website to communicate “Liturgy News and Notes” in an attractive, engaging manner?
- Capitalize on the joy the art and environment committee feels during Easter Time. Invite them to the meeting to celebrate their work and to challenge them to continue their creativity into the coming stretch of Ordinary Time. Provide each of these members with the *Guide for Ministers of Liturgical Environment* (Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 2009) as a gift.
- Encourage each worship committee member to discover a liturgy update for their growth during the summer. Consider reviewing the *Pastoral Liturgy*® archive www.pastoralliturgy.org/archive.php, attending the National Pastoral Musicians’ annual

convention in Cincinnati, Ohio, from July 10–14 (a liturgy track offered this year), interviewing the leaders of other worship committees in the area to discover their goals and plans for the liturgical year, or visiting several other parishes for Sunday Mass (observing liturgical ministries).

- 2017 marks ten years since the promulgation of the U.S. Bishops’ *Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship*. Each member should give this document a thorough study over the summer and respond to the following question in September: How can the worship committee support the parish music ministry?

MOVING FORWARD

- Decide how the parish celebrations could intersect with secular holidays such as Mother’s Day (May 14) and Father’s Day (June 18). Consider using the *Book of Blessings* and making “homily helps” (bulleted points) for the preaching staff. Recommendations could follow Pope Francis’ guidance about family life, noting additionally that not all women (use *men* interchangeably) are called to be parents, and that those who “parent” but are not biological parents should also be included and blessed.
- Discuss the need for new members, asking, “Who are the visionaries from the pews?” Use a selection criterion asking, “Who consistently celebrates Mass and loves the Church?” and “Who participates fully in a liturgical ministry of the parish?” Such candidates make good committee members.
- Decide how to help parish members anticipate the beauty and power of the coming Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity and Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ in addition to the Solemnity of Pentecost.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

- Invite a non-liturgical parish group (Knights of Columbus, Bible study group, youth ministry, catechetical leaders) to share a closing prayer with the worship committee.
- Pray Psalm 22: *I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people*. This psalm is found just before the preface of the *Guide for Liturgy Committees* (Liturgy Training Publications, 2009). Each committee member should have his/her own copy.
- Pray the Solemn Blessing for Easter Time from the Missal.

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At www.PastoralLiturgy.org

Find and share this article with parish staff and the liturgy committee at the following URL: <http://www.pastoral-liturgy.org/resources/PSLV048I03WorshipMeetingAgenda.pdf>.