

Worship Meeting Agenda

OPENING PRAYER

- Begin with the Sign of the Cross, and sing “Come, You Thankful People, Come” (ST. GEORGE’S WINDSOR) or “This Day God Gives Me” (BUSSEMAN), and follow with two minutes of quiet thanksgiving for the gift of life. If musical accompaniment is not possible, pray the text reflectively.
- During the Month of All Souls, invite a guitarist to support the singing of “Psalm 23: Shepherd Me, O God” (Haugen, ©1986 GIA). As singing begins, invite the group to bless themselves from a bowl of water drawn from the baptismal font. Read Ephesians 4:1–6 found in *Rite of Baptism for Children*, “Various Texts for Use in the Celebration of Baptism for Children,” 193.
- Anticipating Advent, play the YouTube recording of “Warm the Time of Winter” (recording by David Haas, text/tune: Duck/True ©1992, 2000 GIA) and reprint (license usage) the music text and tune for the committee. Follow with three minutes of quiet in prayerful remembrance of those who have experienced the “chill of death.” Conclude with the Lord’s Prayer.

ESTABLISHING PRIORITIES

- Invite the Christian initiation coordinator(s) to attend the liturgy committee meeting, asking them to provide an update on whether any of the inquirers are discerning participation in the Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens. Offer assistance, if needed, in finding sponsors from members of the congregation. Consider providing this issue’s downloadable “What Is the Role of the Sponsor?” by Kristopher W. Seaman, as a bulletin insert.
- The Mass schedule for the late Advent/Christmas season is likely different from the usual schedule due to the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord falling on Monday. Make certain that all possible publicity methods have been pursued so that parishioners, visitors, and guests are well informed of the schedule, as far in advance as possible (including Penance services and rehearsal times for special events). Coordinate (and consolidate) the calendar.
- Establish the January meeting date firmly: plan to evaluate Advent/Christmas, as well as anticipate Ash Wednesday.
- November is a month to honor those parishioners who have died in the past year; plan a “Wall of Remembrance” in a parish gathering area. On Sundays, *The Book of the Names of the Dead* can be displayed prominently, where parishioners can sign it easily; perhaps it can “travel” to parish meetings during November for additional names. Note: Liturgy Training Publications publishes a bilingual Spanish-English edition.

SHAPING INITIATIVES

- Review from the July/August issue of *Pastoral Liturgy*®, “Moving Beyond the Invitation to Accompany Seekers,” by Teresa Marshall-Patterson. Spend twenty minutes discussing the parish Christian initiation process, and consider the yet-to-be-accomplished tasks in the movement toward evangelization *in, through, and for* the parish. Ask: How can we make the initiation process a priority in our parish?
- Ask the art and environment team to evaluate their supplies, any liturgical art, and their budget. Explore possibilities for acquiring liturgical art, both outside of the worship space as well as inside. Invite the art and environment team to dream, and return with suggestions. Ask them to pay attention to new devotional pieties, perhaps an outdoor installation (for the Easter fire, for praying the Stations, or bronze sculpture to draw seekers inside) and suggest what is needed to draw more people to the sacred.
- For a respite for liturgical ministers, offer to plan a simple potluck evening, and ask a neighboring parish’s choir to lead the group in sung Evening Prayer. Invite all liturgical ministers to attend. (Suggest that the parish provide a ham for the meal and a gift certificate as a raffle prize.) Celebrate the return to Ordinary Time.

CLOSING PRAYER

- By candlelight, invite an excellent parish reader to proclaim the closing prayer: Psalm 42–43, followed by Psalm 51, and concluding with Psalm 122. Provide copies of the Memorare, and pray it as a group.
- Using the *Order of Christian Funerals*, pray two sets of General Intercessions (401) with the leader adapting no. 2 and no. 4 with the group. Read no. 5 from the Song of Farewell as the closing prayer. Conclude with the Lord’s Prayer.
- Read paragraph 28 of *The Joy of the Gospel*, by Pope Francis, and follow with Ezekiel 34:11–12, 15–17 (*Lectionary for Mass*, 160A). Lead and pray the Responsorial Psalm that follows in the Lectionary (Psalm 23).

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At www.PastoralLiturgy.org

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