

Worship Meeting Agenda

(Editor's note: These agenda items provide a listing of possible topics to consider at the next parish liturgy committee meeting. Select the topics that will guide your preparation in the months ahead.)

OPENING PRAYER

- Choose five prayers from the Prayers over the People from *The Roman Missal* for intercessory prayer. Ask the group to respond to each with “Christ, hear us. Christ, graciously hear us.”
- As candles that have been placed before each participant are lighted, sing “Christ, Be Our Light” (Bernadette Farrell, © OCP, also published by GIA). After the song, push the candles to the center of the table, allowing them to “illuminate” the meeting.
- Begin with a litany of the saints, asking the saints’ intercession for a productive meeting. Turn to the General Roman Calendar in the Missal and invoke the saints listed for September and October, with the leader singing, for example, “St. Gregory the Great,” and the participants responding, “pray for us.”

PREPARING TO DO GOOD WORK

- If your parish celebrates Mass in Spanish, make arrangements to purchase and become familiar with the *Misal Romano*, tercera edición (which has a mandated use date of the First Sunday of Advent). Ask the diocesan worship office or the diocesan vicar for clergy to provide a workshop and consider hosting the workshop. The Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions has made a toolkit available that will assist in determining what is new in the Missal.
- Study this issue’s article “New *Misal Romano* to Unite Spanish-Speaking Faithful,” by Fr. Heliodoro Lucatero, in the English or Spanish version, depending on which is appropriate for the group.
- Anticipate Advent in the parish: briefly review notes and photos from the previous year. Note the ethnic religious celebrations that take place during Advent, and discuss how to make them parish-wide.
- Provide your readers with an early morning update, with coffee-and-doughnut hospitality. Select an issue to focus on: diction (pronunciation, using the sound system effectively), vocal discernment of the reading, or a preparation intensive about how to use the week to get ready to proclaim.
- With the director of Christian initiation, decide on a date for the worship committee to meet the catechumens during a session. Members of the worship committee could briefly explain its mission to the group.

ENVISIONING ADVENT, CHRISTMAS, AND WINTER ORDINARY TIME

- Concentrate on creating strong symbols of Advent throughout the church and parish grounds. Consider announcing Mass times for Advent and Christmas on the signage.
- Take twenty minutes to discuss the Sacrament of Penance and when it is offered at the parish. Should two weeknights during Advent be set aside to open wide the doors for this sacrament? Do youth and young adults have convenient times to celebrate Penance? Are there times during the day for older adults who cannot drive at night? Create two bulletin inserts to guide persons on how to receive this sacrament.
- Help parishioners understand the importance of welcoming those who aren’t as attentive to celebrating the Eucharist regularly. Provide copies of “Hospitality and Liturgy Partner for Evangelization at Christmas,” by Letitia Thornton, from this issue of *Pastoral Liturgy*® to every group that meets at the parish. Ask the parish groups to take ten minutes to review and discuss the article at a fall meeting.
- Celebrate the greeters at all Sunday Masses with a blessing on a designated weekend. Ask them to stand before the final blessing, be recognized in their ministry, and receive a blessing from the priest. Select another weekend to honor the ushers and sacristans, asking the priest to bless them.

SENDING FORTH IN MINISTRY

- Read paragraph 13 of *Laudato Si’* together, then ask a member to read the first three verses of “For the Beauty of the Earth” (tune: DIX). With a guitarist accompanying, sing the last three verses before leaving the meeting.
- Pray a decade of the Rosary together and disperse with a promise to finish the Rosary before the end of the week.
- Suggest to members that they bring a non-Catholic to Sunday Mass with them and pray for that individual during the month. Ask that the worship committee members prepare three thoughts about the experience to share at the next meeting.

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At www.PastoralLiturgy.org

Find and share this article with parish staff and the liturgy committee at: <http://www.pastoralliturgy.org/resources/PSLV049I05WorshipMeetingAgenda.pdf>.