

Worship Meeting Agenda

(These agenda items provide a listing of possible topics to consider at your next parish liturgy committee meeting. Select the topics that will guide your preparation for the liturgical seasons ahead.)

OPENING PRAYER

- Welcome members to Year C by sharing the first paragraph from “Understanding the Word We Proclaim” on page v of the 2019 *Workbook for Lectors, Gospel Readers, and Proclaimers of the Word* (Liturgy Training Publications). Set the tone with a prayerful reading of Matthew 7:1–12.
- Invite a member to read 1 John 3:11–21 (fifth option for 947B in the *Lectionary for Mass Supplement* (2017), and lead a ten-minute guided reflection, asking each committee member to speak about “how our hearts are reassured” by participation in the Sunday liturgy.

ANTICIPATING WINTER ORDINARY TIME AND LENT

- Designate a team to envision both hospitality for worship and a community-building Lenten soup meal (either a lunch or dinner). Be sure that the team considers Ash Wednesday as a significant day for evangelization to occur during in prayer and worship, in the giving of ashes, and in a welcoming and attractive worship space. Encourage the composition of a handout for visitors that describes the parish ministries and invites people to return. Use social media and the parish website to advertise Mass times.
- Encourage the Christian initiation team by bringing refreshments and a bouquet of prayers from the worship committee to a catechumenate session. Provide team members with a copy of Rodica Stoicoiu’s article “Retreat Prepares Elect to Encounter Mystery at Vigil” in this issue of *Pastoral Liturgy*®.
- Discuss the ministry of consolation at your parish. Ask: Are there specific people who follow up with a family (or widow/widower) every month during the first year after a death? Does the parish staff send a card of remembrance? Are there parishioners who pray intentionally for the grieving? Are those who have suffered a loss invited to a simple Liturgy of the Word around the one-year anniversary of death? Make certain that this ministry has the volunteer help that is needed, taking into account that all age groups can contribute to the ministry of consolation.
- Consider whether this is the year that the parish hosts a Lenten mission. If this is the first year for the mission, start small. Explore the possibilities for a supper, scheduling a great homilist, singing Evening Prayer, and providing participants with a gift of a Lenten prayer booklet. Take good notes to save for next year’s planning team.

PREPARING FOR LENT

- Create a spreadsheet of parish activities during Lent, anticipating needs for space and convenient times for devotional prayer. Allow for the traditional fish fry or simple suppers, always adding prayer (before or after). Link arms with the local community to discover how your parish can alleviate a need for those who are struggling. Perhaps canned food is needed at the local food bank or infant clothing at an agency such as Catholic Charities.
- Anticipate Lenten needs by asking a worship committee member to check the budget for Lent regarding worship. Is there funding to provide a stipend for an extra musician or two, if needed, for Stations of the Cross? Consider the needs of the worship environment through the Triduum. Do the linens need to be refreshed or does the holder for the Paschal candle need to be repaired?
- Encourage the art and environment committee to begin to solicit memorial donations for Easter flowers. Remind them to anticipate their floral needs during the entire fifty days.
- Put baskets in the narthex for a month to gather the palms from last year for the burning of the palms on Ash Wednesday.

CLOSING PRAYER

- Invite a parish musician to accompany the singing of “God of Day and God of Darkness” (BEACH SPRING) as a prayerful sending forth. Sing all of the verses.
- Compile the Universal Prayers from the *Pastoral Liturgy*® recurring section, “Preparing the Season,” and create a litany of needs to express as prayer with the committee.
- Assemble around a small brazier, adding a pinch of incense. Share Evening Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours if the meeting concludes at night.

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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/PSLV050I01WorshipMeetingAgenda.pdf>.