

Worship Meeting Agenda

(Editor's note: 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 planning for the liturgical season ahead.)

A PRAYERFUL BEGINNING

- Distribute both jagged and smooth rocks in a pottery saucer, and kindle a tea light for each committee member. Ask God to send the light of Christ to illuminate the hearts and minds of those gathered, and follow with two minutes of quiet. Continue with a reflective reading of the shorter form of the Exsultet (in *The Roman Missal*), anticipating the joy of the Easter Vigil to come.
- Begin by praying the Collect from the Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary (March 19). Invite all to stand, and follow by reciting the Apostles' Creed.
- Invite each person to read a line or two of the Prayer to the Holy Spirit, used as the Opening Prayer at the Second Vatican Council. Allow five minutes for lectio divina, and pray the prayer together again, to open the meeting.

SHARING WORK AND WORSHIP

- Lent is the reason for a variety of liturgical gatherings in the parish. Create the contact/leadership list now for art and environment during the Sacred Paschal Triduum, reconciliation service(s) liturgy (and connect with the music leader), soup and bread supper (or pita and coffee breakfast after each Friday Mass?), to name a few. Make sure that there is a communicator for these schedules: Mass, Lenten reconciliation times, Ash Wednesday, Stations of the Cross, and any other worship events and gatherings that your parish sponsors during Lent and the Triduum. Publish schedules and an invitation on social media to reach those who may not typically attend your parish liturgies. Include all generations in publicizing.
- Ask all members to read Kyle S. Turner's "Three Days for Transformation: Inviting Young People to the Triduum" in this issue before the meeting. Brainstorm suggestions for including youth and young adults in the celebration of the Triduum. Consider inviting a member of the adult faith formation ministry to catechize the young people who volunteer and support them in the Triduum ministries. An intentional thank-you note to them from the Worship Committee after Easter will nurture their interest.
- Remember that the Worship Committee consists of visionaries, connectors, and communicators. Stretch as far as you can imagine to invite new volunteers. Send members to encourage and interact with ad hoc groups who will help the Lenten and Triduum celebrations to be beautiful and worthy, with as little stress as possible.

- Make lists of volunteers who contribute time and talent, and publish their names on the parish website and in the bulletin with profound gratitude to all during the Easter season.
- Prior to the Rite of Election, create a prayer card for each person who is to receive the initiation sacraments at the Easter Vigil. Encourage the inquiry team for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults to advertise a date during Easter Time for an inquiry session.
- Consider providing a link on the parish website to "Music Integral to Celebrations of Christian Initiation Rites," by Eric Bermani, from the November/December 2017 issue.

PROMOTING PERSPECTIVE IN PLANNING

- Assemble "names and notes" from Lent, Triduum, and Easter Sunday liturgies. Plan on a review of the liturgies at the next meeting. Try to schedule a meeting during the middle of the Easter season to evaluate the celebrations (including the continuation of the Easter environment through Pentecost).
- Consider now the summer workshops and offerings, in terms of budget allocations: the National Gathering on Christian Initiation™ in Chicago, July 2–3, <https://ngci.org/2019> would be a primary consideration. Find out about liturgy workshops, and perhaps even schedule a workshop/update for your deanery.
- Consider your Pentecost celebrations and the catechesis that could accompany this solemnity. Could you introduce a celebration of coffee, cake, and conversation after each Mass on Pentecost Sunday? Keep the Easter joy into Ordinary Time.

AS WE GO OUR SEPARATE WAYS

- Take several minutes for intercessory prayer, "Let us ask God for what we need for ourselves and for our parish this Lent." Follow with several invocations from the Prayers over the People that are in the back of *The Roman Missal*.
- Print booklets for Evening Prayer.
- Draw a name of someone on the Worship Committee whom you will pray for especially during Lent, keeping it secret for now. At the next meeting, share your Easter joy with that person. Recite the Lord's Prayer as a final prayer offering.

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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/PSLV050I02WorshipMeetingAgenda.pdf>.