

# Worship Meeting Agenda

## OPENING PRAYER

- Begin with the Sign of the Cross, and use appendix V of *The Roman Missal* to pray the Universal Prayer from Lent I or Lent II, with the leader beginning with the priest's introduction. Finish with a gentle recitation of the Act of Contrition.
- Using music from YouTube or accompanied by a parish musician, sing and pray the Lenten song "Ashes" (T. Conry, OCP Publications © 1978).
- Ask each member to bring a rosary, and recite two decades of the sorrowful mysteries. Invite the members to finish the Rosary sometime during the week, offering these prayers for the intentions of those in the parish who actively suffer in mind or in body.

## REVIEW AND PREPARE

- The week before the meeting, remind members to read "The Processions of Holy Week: A Journey with the Paschal Mystery," by Vicki Klima, in this issue. Allow twenty minutes to discuss how the Holy Week processions might be more meaningful. Could there be better catechesis of the assembly? More effective rehearsal? Would it be helpful to designate a master of ceremonies (lead server) as point person for all processions? Take notes on strategy, and be intentional this year.
- Provide the article "Keeping Easter Decor Fresh," by J. Philip Horrigan, in this issue, to every person on the art and environment committee at the parish, along with a small gift of Easter chocolate (in advance of the Triduum) as thanks and encouragement for their busy season to come. This lets them know that you appreciate their advance preparation for Lent, the Triduum, and Easter Time.
- Review the notes from Lent 2019 and review the suggestions offered during last year's evaluation. Delegate responsibilities so that each worship committee member can connect with the liturgical ministry leaders in the parish (lectors, communion ministers, hospitality ministers, deacons who preach and proclaim, Children's Liturgy of the Word, sacristans). Ask each leader what is needed in terms of extra help, budget, scheduling; assist leaders in implementing their Lent and Triduum plans.
- Connect parish members, visitors, and guests to the parish schedule for Holy Week, the Triduum, Easter, and the Easter season. Spread invitation and information, keeping strong the values of welcoming and hospitality. Use all available technology that you have, so that many will be informed. Don't forget signage in front of the church.

## MOVING FORWARD

- Designate a committee person to communicate to the bulletin/website editor the importance of publishing

information about the Rite of Sending (for the catechumens) and the Rite of Election. Advise the pastoral staff regarding what weekend might be best for persons to be received into full communion. If there are many candidates, invite them to choose a Mass time during a designated weekend, and receive the candidates at different Masses.

- Anticipate the first communions and weddings that may take place before Pentecost. Ask and respond: how can we connect these children—or the newly married—to the parish community?
- Plan now to thank the parish music ministers sometime during the season of Easter: a brunch for the choir, take-home bags of cookies after rehearsal, a picnic supper when the weather is nicer. Let them know that the parish appreciates their ministry.
- Plan to bless each music group at their respective Mass sometime during the Easter season. A blessing after the post-communion prayer is a memorable way to express gratitude for their work.

## CLOSING PRAYER

- After praying the Lord's Prayer together, the leader concludes by reading the final blessing from the Good Friday liturgy (31) in the Missal. Ask the members to observe ten minutes of silence on their way home, offered for the intentions of those in the parish who have no one to pray for them.
- Sing together (as a mantra) "Ubi Caritas" (GIA Publications © 1979, Taize). Published in three accessible languages, it is also brief enough to lead to deep reflection. After singing several times, invite a lector to read 1 Corinthians 13:2–8 as the closing Scripture.
- Choose several of the Collects from the weekdays, in the Octave of Easter, praying that the joy of Easter will permeate every household in the parish. The committee simply responds "Amen" after each Collect is prayed.

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