

# Worship Meeting Agenda

(Editor's note: The agenda items provide a listing of possible topics to consider at your next parish liturgy committee meeting. Select the topics that will guide your preparations for the liturgical season ahead.)

## OPENING PRAYER

- Pray the Litany of the Precious Blood. (Since July is the Month of the Most Precious Blood of Jesus, share the litany on the parish website along with catechesis of the Eucharist in its fuller form.)
- If unable to gather in person, meet virtually. Ask members to stand, make the Sign of the Cross, and then reflectively recite the Gloria together. Be seated for the reading from 2 Thessalonians 2:1–3a, 14–17, from Tuesday of the Twenty-First week in Ordinary Time.
- Using a phone app if the meeting is held virtually, or with a worship aid if members meet in person, pray the hour (Morning or Evening Prayer) of the Liturgy of the Hours together, centering especially on the psalmody.

## EMERGING FROM A TIME OF LOSS

- Discuss how to evaluate where the parish has been in terms of gathering and prayer, and what is needed to move forward with the liturgy and sacraments. Take notes and focus carefully: recommend rites that need to be inserted immediately into parish life, and which parish celebrations might be rescheduled/postponed for a later time.
- Invite the coordinator of the Christian initiation team to the meeting, and offer assistance in the preparation for the full initiation of the elect. Be attentive to *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* (RCIA), 26–27, which describes initiation outside the usual times, and also, where the bishop permits a simpler form of the rite during exceptional circumstances, to RCIA, 331–369. Make plans to catechize the assembly on the reason for initiation at this time.
- Plan weekends to celebrate First Communions, allowing families to choose a Mass during that weekend.
- When Baptisms of children have been delayed, determine the logistics of baptizing a number of children during a weekend Mass and, if necessary, after Mass.
- With the music director, encourage a retreat with music and Scripture to serve as a new beginning for music ministers and others in liturgical ministries.
- Assign two members to provide catechesis on any alterations in posture, gesture, and reception of holy Communion that can be included in the bulletin, the website, and announcements prior to the beginning of Mass.

- Schedule meetings to update liturgical ministers on any changes to how their ministry will be carried out in reference to COVID-19.

## REACHING OUT IN HOPE

- Discuss how to invite the community back to Mass. Consider the physical aspects (for example, signage in front of the church, an outdoor banner) as well as announcements on the parish website and through social media.
- Before the meeting, request that members read “Liturgy for Rite of Penance Celebrates God’s Compassion,” by Christopher Ferraro, in this issue. Prepare a parish reconciliation service with individual confession offered. Consider the requirements of social distancing for the liturgy.
- Ask for members to offer assistance to the parish marriage coordinator, helping to adjust the parish activities on the calendar to accommodate couples whose weddings were delayed because of the pandemic. Attention should be called to the *Order of Celebrating Matrimony* (OCM), 28 and 29. OCM, 28, notes that “several Marriages may be celebrated at the same time or the celebration of the Sacrament may take place during the Sunday assembly.”
- For Labor Day, plan for the weekend Masses and the Labor Day Mass to include a collection of gift cards, food, and monetary donations for workers who are suffering from the effects of the pandemic.

## CLOSING PRAYER

- Go forth in mission: proclaim Matthew 5:1–12, lighting a “candle of hope” for each Beatitude. Sing or listen to a recording of “Let All Things Now Living” (ASH GROVE). Save the candles and use this prayer at gatherings until the pandemic ends.
- Review Eileen D. Crowley’s article about media art in this issue. If the committee is able to gather in person, pray Night Prayer with image(s) that reflect the *Nunc dimittis* canticle.

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