

# Worship Meeting Agenda

## BEGINNING WITH PRAYER

- For a virtual or in-person meeting: Invite members to pray the text as they listen reflectively to the lyrics of a YouTube recording of “For All the Saints” (SINE NOMINE, text by Ralph Vaughan Williams). Sending the text ahead with the meeting agenda will prepare members to pray with the lyrics.
- Since November is the Month of All Souls, name and remember at least ten people from the parish or community who have died, responding “Lord, bless him/her; God, bless us all.” Pause for two minutes of silence to remember people unknown to the parish who have died from COVID-19. Conclude with the Lord’s Prayer.
- Anticipating Advent, pray one decade of a joyful mystery of the Rosary. Ask members to finish the Rosary at home for the intentions of All Souls, before the First Sunday of Advent.

## REVIEWING AND RENEWING

- Invite parishioners to name one thing for which they are grateful, to be published on the parish website as a rolling script. Mail the list to those who may lack internet connection.
- Research local service opportunities, and circulate a list for parishioners. Send a worship committee representative to lead a prayer before the activity begins.
- Carefully consider the possibilities (and diocesan guidelines) for gathering to celebrate each Sunday of Advent. Ask the musician to use the most familiar music possible, so that all might pray a known text, if singing is not yet possible.
- Brainstorm ideas about evangelization with outdoor art and environment design. Designate a small group to fulfill the mission of capturing Advent joy and the season of Christmas. This is the year to invite the public to consider your parish community, your website, your Catholic identity—from the outside in.
- Support those who adorn the worship space during Christmas Time (particularly if Mass is broadcast on a network or livestreamed) with an emphasis on strong, worthy visual symbols for the celebration of the Eucharist. Vestments, vessels, and even the size of hosts (large enough to see) may be more significant than ever. Focus on visual elements to attract seekers who could be drawn into beautiful celebrations.
- If your church is open for welcoming worshipers again, meet with the leaders of the hospitality ministry and renew their spirits and mission; consider reviewing guidelines in the wake of COVID-19.

## REFRESHING THE SPIRIT

- Recommend to the parish staff that they purchase *Keeping the Seasons for Advent and Christmas 2020-2021: Bilingual Print and Digital Resources for Your Parish* (LTP) to help parishioners celebrate the seasons more fully.
- Support those who console the bereaved: Send a written note of encouragement from the worship committee. Make certain to thank each person for their efforts, both in funeral ministry and to those who mourn. A gift of *Daily Prayer 2021* (LTP) will nourish their spirituality, keep up their strength for ministry, and show appreciation in these challenging times.
- Share with parishioners Fr. Eddie De León’s article, in this issue, which can seed a parish panel discussion on racial justice.
- Check up on the parish readers, even though they have missed opportunities to proclaim Scripture during reduced Mass schedules. Make sure they receive *Workbook for Lectors, Gospel Readers, and Proclaimers of the Word 2021* (LTP), with editions in English and Spanish. Enclose a reminder that these workbooks form those who proclaim Scripture, even when workshop gatherings are impossible.

## SENDING FORTH IN MISSION

- Recite the prayer to the Holy Spirit that opened each session of the Second Vatican Council. In prayerful formation for discussion at the next meeting, ask each member to read and reflect on “*Co-Workers in the Vineyard at Fifteen: Polaroid Snapshots*” in this issue. Signal that the next meeting opens with a twenty-minute reflection on the implications of lay ministry in your parish.
- Use *Sourcebook for Sundays, Seasons, and Weekdays 2020* (LTP), and pray the universal prayer for the Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time. Conclude with the Apostles’ Creed.
- Print or send a file of the music and lyrics from “Hark, the Herald Angels Sing” (Charles Wesley/Felix Mendelssohn) (with copyright permission). Locate a YouTube melody and practice lectio divina on the words “born that man no more may die” for three minutes.

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***At [www.PastoralLiturgy.org](http://www.PastoralLiturgy.org)***

Find and share this article with parish staff and the liturgy committee at: <http://www.pastoralliturgy.org/resources/PSLV051I06WorshipMeetingAgenda.pdf>.