

Worship Meeting Agenda

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

MEETING PREPARATION

- Request that members bring their *2023 Liturgy and Appointment Calendar* (Liturgy Training Publications [LTP], 2022).
- Distribute Kathryn Ball-Boruff's text "An Octave of Days to Rejoice" from this issue of *Pastoral Liturgy*®. At the meeting, request approval to use the article as a bulletin insert and to post on the parish website.

OPENING PRAYER

- Begin with the sign of the cross and then invite all to respond prayerfully as three members alternately sing names from the Litany of the Saints. Conclude with the Lord's Prayer.
- Proclaim Mark 12:28b–31 and allow a moment of silence. Invite the group to listen to "Loving and Forgiving" (Scott Soper, OCP Publications © 1992) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XIENnGwhUg8>, joining in the refrain. Repeat the reading from Mark.
- Ask a member to proclaim Matthew 5:1–12a, the Gospel from the Solemnity of All Saints. Conclude with the Universal Prayer in *Sourcebook for Sundays, Seasons, and Weekdays 2022* (LTP, 2021), p. 381.

ANTICIPATING AND PLANNING

- Determine ways to capture the spirit of the saints who are honored during November and ask a group (junior high school youth, shawl group members, Dads' Club) to highlight the saints on the parish website, referencing customs and biographical information in *Sourcebook*.
- Anticipate Thanksgiving by deciding a time for blessing of food, ways the parish can provide groceries for those in need, and who can search for those who will be alone on Thanksgiving and Christmas and invite them to share a meal.
- The universal prayer during Mass invites sensitivity to parish needs. Decide on a parishioner to write two petitions for Sundays during Advent and Christmas that would reflect needs of parishioners. (Examples: "for those who feel alone during these festive times, we pray . . ." or "for those who are experiencing loss (job, death, financial) during these dark months of winter, we pray . . .")
- Advertise the Christmas Mass schedule often throughout the parish and community. Provide the information to local neighborhoods, letting people know that they are welcome to worship with you at Christmas, the Solemnity of Mary, the

Holy Mother of God, and Epiphany. Allow ample time for early seating between liturgies. Evangelization occurs when hospitality is generous and a warm welcome is offered.

SHAPING NEEDS AND RESPONSES

- Become acquainted with the work of the parish bereavement team and honor them by name during November. Consider with the team whether members might include youth, high school students, or students from the parish school who could create cards of encouragement and sympathy notes for those who have lost a loved one.
- Plan ways to communicate with each liturgical ministry leader, assisting them in determining what is needed for their team to be prayerful and effective. Encourage leaders to schedule and energize enough volunteers for seamless ministry. Plan to celebrate all ministers after the Christmas season.
- Discuss with members whether a parish mission and speaker should be scheduled for the beginning of Lent. Determine the focus of the intentional prayer for the mission and how to reach out to varied members of the parish to promote the mission. Include the pastor and the music leader in the initial discussions. Remember to include the diversity of cultures in the parish and ways of praying and singing in your preparation.
- Set aside twenty minutes for consideration of preparing a liturgical prayer service that raises awareness of Catholic social teaching. To guide the discussion, refer to *Prayer Services for Times of Need* (LTP 2021), and determine the areas for intentional prayer. This possibility should lead the agenda for the January meeting. Take notes and follow through.

SENDING FORTH IN MISSION

- For the closing prayer, ask a member to lead the introductory rites from the *Book of Blessings*, chapter 60 (1815–1817), and the intercessions (1822). Conclude with the Lord's Prayer.
- During Advent, we are reminded of Mary's "yes" to God. Invite the committee to stand for prayer. Ask a reader to proclaim Luke 1:46–56 (the Gospel for December 22). Conclude the reading by praying the Hail Mary.

PATRICIA J. HUGHES, DMIN, has directed the office of worship for the Dioceses of Grand Rapids and Dallas, in addition to providing parish liturgical and catechetical formation for ministers of the Church.

At www.PastoralLiturgy.org

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