

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.)

PREPARATION FOR THE MEETING

- Prior to the meeting, ask members to review Rev. J. Philip Horrigan's article about the revised *Order of Penance* in this issue.

PRAYING TOGETHER

- Prepare a pottery bowl of holy water in the center of the table. Stand, and proclaim the Gospel from the Third Sunday of Lent, Year A (shorter form), the story of the woman at the well. (This reading is used at Masses with the scrutinies.) Invite all to bless themselves in remembrance of their baptism.
- January is the month of the Holy Name of Jesus. Proclaim Philippians 2:5–11. Then invite silent reflection as members listen to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V7uJ-gWcif0> "Jesus the Lord" (R. O'Connor and J. Foley © OCP, 1981).
- Provide copies of the prayer of the penitent from paragraph 45 of *The Order of Penance*. Begin with the sign of the cross and prayerfully recite this act of contrition together. Conclude with The Lord's Prayer.

REVIEW AND ARCHIVE

- Begin, or continue to add to, the treasury of Advent/Christmas season photos of the worship space from 2022. Save photos, then focus twenty minutes of discussion and list (1) what drew people to the sacred and (2) what is needed for next year. (Try to avoid using descriptions such as "I liked" or "I don't like.") Consider how the church environment, website, prayer services, service projects, and sacramental celebrations may have led others closer to Christ.
- Review the archived notes from the last Lenten season. Use this information to make certain that the parish calendar (and all social media) reflects all prayer celebrations, including the Sacred Paschal Triduum, so the parishioners can anticipate and plan. Sensitize the committee to include all interests and groups in services and outreach this year.
- Ask members what support or updates the liturgical ministers need, based on the past experience of Lent and the Triduum. Would a morning/evening of intentional prayer for these ministers be helpful?
- Appoint a committee member to ask the liturgical ministry leaders if they need additional help or replacement volunteers, anticipating Lent. Note and respond to their need.

REVITALIZE AND ANTICIPATE

- Alert the Christian initiation leaders to the article "Guiding the Elect to Desire the Lord in the Eucharist," by Teresa Marshall-Patterson in this issue.
- Provide a copy of *Sourcebook for Sundays, Seasons, and Weekdays 2023* (LTP, 2022) to each member of the worship team.
- Give members a sheet with a list of both the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Ask members whether either category would be a worthy emphasis for Lent (and beyond). If so, how could parish prayer, homilies, website updates, and social media engage parishioner interest and possible action?
- How can the worship committee support community building during Lent? Consider a lunch or supper for parishioners on the Solemnity of St. Joseph.
- Make a list of the ways that youth and young adults are being invited to prayer and service projects and brainstorm whether more can be done to intentionally include them.
- Schedule an additional committee meeting to support Triduum preparation for near the Third Sunday of Lent. Invite details and a list of needs from all ministry leaders.

SENDING FORTH IN MISSION

- Light a small candle at each person's place, and pray the Apostles' Creed for the intention of bringing the light of faith into the hearts of those who lack or seek faith in Jesus.
- Begin the Rosary, and say the first decade as a group. Ask each member to finish the Rosary during the week, dedicating this prayer to strengthen all catechumens who are preparing for the Easter sacraments.
- Invite a lector to read paragraphs 109 and 110 from the *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*. Conclude with a group response as a prayer leader reads the general intercessions from the *Book of Blessings, 2044–2045*.

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

At www.PastoralLiturgy.org

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