

# Worship Meeting Agenda

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

## PREPARATION FOR THE MEETING

- Invite three committee members to read in advance “Giving Thanks: A Mystagogical Series on the Eucharistic Prayer,” by Paulette M. Chapman, in this issue of *Pastoral Liturgy*®. Based on the author’s suggestion of a seven-week series, ask the reviewers to prepare a brief synopsis and recommend whether the sessions would be viable this year for the parish. Would an abbreviated series be more effective? Is this series a possibility sometime during this liturgical year, perhaps as continuing catechesis for all?

## PRAYING TOGETHER

- A leader begins with the sign of the cross and the Lord’s Prayer. Using *Sourcebook for Sundays, Seasons, and Weekdays 2023* (LTP 2022), pray the universal prayer provided for the First Sunday of Lent (p. 113). Allow thirty seconds of silence after each petition. Conclude with the closing prayer from *Sourcebook*.
- The Solemnity of St. Joseph is transferred to March 20 this year. Begin prayer with a reading of the Liturgy and Life entry for that day in *Sourcebook for Sundays, Seasons, and Weekdays* (p. 133), as a reflection. Follow with the universal prayer listed on the same page.
- If the worship committee meets after Easter, gather around a bowl of water with a few lighted, floating candles. Stand, and prayerfully renew the promises of baptismal faith, using *The Roman Missal* (Easter Vigil, 55). Sing a favorite “alleluia” together with a music ministry volunteer leading on the guitar, piano, or organ. This opening prayer could also be prayed around the font in the church.

## CONSIDER AND DECIDE

- Prior to the end of Lent, review personnel and preparation for the Triduum. Ask liturgy leaders if the worship committee can help locate extra volunteers so that the Triduum and Easter Time responsibilities are not stressful to leaders.
- Determine ways to publicize the time of the liturgies during Holy Week and Easter and hours when the church will be open for prayer. Encourage observance of the sacrament of penance, making sure that it is scheduled for times that are convenient for families and those who might not want to drive or be out after dark. Invite those who carpool for school pickup to arrive thirty minutes early, park, and go to the church to participate in the sacrament.

- Ask and recommend that the environment team communicate the sanctuary flower-placement for the Easter Vigil to the Christian initiation team to aid in the coordination of the ritual movement between the sanctuary and font for the elect.

- For fifteen minutes, discuss ways to show appreciation to the liturgical ministers and parish staff for contributions during Lent and Easter Time. Possibilities to consider are a celebration, an open house, or homemade box lunches for pickup.

## ANTICIPATE AND REVITALIZE

- Welcome March and Lent: anticipate the First Sunday of Lent as the time when the catechumens become the elect. Assist the Christian initiation team by offering to display photos and biographical information of the elect on the parish website and in the principal area for gathering in your worship space. Ask a committee member to shepherd this project—perhaps contacting the elect directly for information to share.
- Prioritize sharing “Embracing Easter Joy,” by Kathy Kuczka, in this issue with the parish, digitally on the website or as a bulletin insert.
- Reflect on the Triduum and Easter Sunday liturgies as nurturing curiosity among visitors. Determine whether continual inquiry sessions take place in the parish. Consider how the parish publicizes that all are welcome to discover who the parish is and what the parish does.
- Look briefly at the meeting schedule, deciding firmly on a time for an annual celebration for the worship committee.

## SENDING FORTH

- Begin a Rosary and recite three decades together. Ask the members to finish the Rosary during the coming week, adding their intention for the Blessed Mother’s intercession.
- Provide a candle as a gift for each committee member in this season of resurrection and new life. Ask two members to share a prayerful proclamation of the Exsultet as each candle is lighted. Conclude with the Glory Be and the sign of the cross.
- Make the sign of the cross and recite the Apostles’ Creed together. Remind members that this creed most clearly reflects the baptismal character of Easter Time.

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