

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.

PRAYING TOGETHER

- In a bowl of sand near a large bowl of water, arrange candles that each member has brought to the meeting. Stand for prayer as each candle is lighted. Anticipating Advent, pray for healing: of those gathered around the water, parishioners, and all people who are hurting in mind or body. Leader prays an Act of Contrition and then reads the introduction of “The Church as Healer” in *Prayer Services for Times of Need* (Liturgy Training Publications © 2020), p. 118. Pray the blessing in option A, and move to the universal prayer, followed by the Lord’s Prayer and conclusion.

- Begin with the sign of the cross. Pray the collect in option 3 for All Souls’ Day from *The Roman Missal*. Provide text for “I Know That My Redeemer Lives” (S. Soper, OCP © 2012), and play YouTube video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bo0N73nmZTM> as a prayerful conclusion.

- Listen prayerfully as a member reads “Renewing Our Hope through Prayer” in the current issue of *Pastoral Liturgy*®. Observe two minutes for silent reflection, then recite together “Adsumus Sancte Spiritus,” the opening prayer of the Second Vatican Council that has been modified for the Synod on Synodality (<https://www.usccb.org/sites/default/files/2021-10/EN-ADSUMUS.pdf>).

REVIEW AND EVALUATE

- Share the archived notes from Advent and the Christmas season from last year. If notes and photos are unavailable, begin the process now to save details of the coming season. Ask and respond: how can the liturgies of this Advent reflect the twin themes of reconciliation and joyful anticipation?

- With Christmas falling on a Monday this year, make certain that your parish Mass schedule reflects both the celebration of the Fourth Sunday of Advent and the Vigil and Masses for the Solemnity of the Nativity. Many parishes will add an additional Mass on Saturday, December 23, and possibly eliminate late Mass(es) on December 24, allowing for a space to prepare for the Vigil of Christmas liturgies. Communicate the schedule.

- Celebrate your art and environment group with a blessing at a designated Mass early in November, publicly praising their year-round dedication to shaping the environment for worship.

ANTICIPATE AND PREPARE

- Ask the sacristan to check for outdated liturgical books and those in poor condition. Assist in funding replacement texts that are current and worthy for celebration.

- Distribute or publish copies of “Simple Observances Allow for Advent Reflection,” by Kathryn Ball-Boruff, and “Advent: A Time to Offer Hope,” by Kathy Kuczka (from this issue of *Pastoral Liturgy*®), on the website, in the bulletin, using social media, and especially for the Christian initiation leaders to share.

- Ask the leaders of hospitality: what type of extra assistance do you need for the Christmas season? Offer suggestions for additional helpers and church cleaners, possibly families who would band together to assist between Masses.

- Remind all liturgical ministry leaders, beginning with the Solemnity of All Saints (November 1) and ending with the Baptism of the Lord (January 8 in 2024): these holy days, Sundays (recall about the Solemnity of Christ the King), and other solemnities are opportunities for evangelization—building up the Body of Christ. Make a special effort to welcome all those who attend liturgies at the parish.

- Alert the worship committee to schedule meeting dates and times, anticipating Lent and the Sacred Paschal Triduum.

- Mark the date of Easter, and invite the music ministry to proclaim this date in song at all the Masses on Epiphany, after the Gospel. Text and music are in *The Roman Missal*, appendix 1.

- Encourage a project that links liturgy and life, possibly inviting every parish organization and club to participate in a food or clothing drive. Another option is to ask each parish group to focus on the same social justice cause. Focusing charitable work can promote a sense of unity to the parish.

CLOSING PRAYER

- Provide a copy of the Prayer to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and recite it together (appendix 6, “Thanksgiving after Mass,” in *The Roman Missal*). Ask each member to share this prayer, weekly during Advent, with a family member or friend.

- Pray Psalm 89 (parts 1 and 2), alternating sides for each verse. Conclude with three Hail Marys and the sign of the cross.

- Recite one decade of the Rosary for the intentions of the parish, and complete this Rosary during the week.

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At www.PastoralLiturgy.org

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