

# 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

- Encourage the initiation team leaders to attend this meeting to gain valuable experience about the depth and focus of liturgical planning for the parish and to become acquainted with the committee as a resource for their ministry.
- Ask all attendees to read Jane Feliz Rush's article "Allowing Christ to Reign in Our Hearts," in this issue. The celebration of the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ the King, and Rush's explanation of authentic kingship sharpens our focus on Christ in preparation for the seasons of Advent and Christmas.

## BEGIN WITH PRAYER

- Provide music so that the committee can pray and sing the text of "The Eyes and Hands of Christ" (Tom Kendzia ©2001, OCP). Use a YouTube recording (or parish musician and singer), and encourage members to contemplate their mission to engage parishioners in worship. Conclude with the Lord's Prayer and the sign of the cross.
- Ask members to bring a picture of at least one of their deceased family members or friends. Center the pictures around the parish *Book of the Dead*, and light one candle nearby. Share copies of the Litany of the Saints and ask two members to alternate leadership of the litany. Ask the group to stand at the conclusion of the litany and recite the Apostles' Creed together.

## EVALUATE AND PLAN

- Review the archived committee notes from the previous year regarding Advent and Christmas. (Begin to document and save notes about the events of parish worship if this isn't currently done.) Suggest that music planning for November include familiar selections, possibly those used at parish funerals.
- Anticipate the Solemnity of All Saints (November 1) and make certain that the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (November 2) provides an opportunity for parishioners to share photographs of their beloved departed and to write their names in the parish *Book of the Dead*. Is there a quiet area in the narthex or gathering space where photos (along with chairs or a kneeler) could be arranged and displayed during the month of November?
- Order individual copies of *Sourcebook for Sundays, Seasons, and Weekdays 2025* (LTP) for committee members and copies of *Workbook for Lectors, Gospel Readers, and Proclaimers of the Word 2025* (LTP) for lectors, homilists, and lay leaders of prayer. If this is a budgetary hardship, plan now for a new fund to support these important resources.

- Encourage the art and environment team to deepen the greenery in the church as late Ordinary Time unfolds. Avoid any liturgical emphasis on pumpkins or cornstalks so that the meaning of Advent becomes clear. The shade of violet and the appearance of the Advent wreath add light to the darkness of winter.
- Coordinate the Advent-Christmas calendar regarding Mass times, reconciliation services, lessons and carols, and seasonal service projects so that parishioners are alert to dates and times. The parish secretary can be of great assistance in preparing a seasonal calendar.

## ANTICIPATING AND PREPARE

- Set a date and plan a celebration to thank those who served the liturgy as ministry volunteers throughout November and December. Perhaps a parish group (or two) could partner to provide soup and bread to honor the liturgical ministers.
- Ask: are more ministers needed to visit the sick of the parish? Is there good communication regarding who the homebound are, especially during the winter months? Provide encouragement, if needed, to strengthen this ministry.
- At this time of year, include the following in the prayer of the faithful: those who travel, college students at home on break, those newly elected to public office, caregivers, and those who are sick in mind or in body.
- Make certain that the "Hymns and Carols Shape Our Faith" insert from this issue of *Pastoral Liturgy* is published in the bulletin and on the parish website.

## SENDING FORTH

- Gather near the sanctuary in the worship space. Begin with the sign of the cross and ask a musician to accompany all verses of "Hark the Herald Angels Sing." Allow three minutes of silence to contemplate the rich theology of the incarnation: "born that man no more may die." Conclude with three Hail Marys.
- Make the sign of the cross, and stand for a reading of Colossians 3:12-17. Invite each member to move around the room and extend an abundant sign of peace to each person present.

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