

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 topic that will guide your preparations in the months ahead.)

MEETING PREPARATION

- In advance, share this issue's article "Institution of Ministries Lifts Up the Priesthood of the Baptized," by Kyle Lechtenberg, to prepare members for a discussion of the topic. At the meeting, guide a reflection on instituted ministry for lectors, acolytes, and catechists.

BEGINNING WITH PRAYER

- Prepare a simple worship aid, and pray the litany of the saints, naming the saints on the liturgical calendar for July and August.
- Read the collect from the Missal for the Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul, Apostles, and also the preface invitation through the Holy, Holy, Holy. End the prayer with the sign of the cross.
- Ask a parish musician to accompany the group in singing "O Sanctissima" ("O Most Holy One") in English and Latin, or "Oh Santísima" ("Mary, Full of Grace") in Spanish, using the traditional tune in the *Gather* hymnal (© GIA) or in *Flor y Canto* (© OCP). Pray one decade of the Rosary for the intention of peace.

ANTICIPATING AND SHAPING NEEDS

- Allow thirty minutes for a focused dialogue on the instituted ministries article that the members reviewed prior to the meeting. Ask and decide: How would we catechize the clergy, staff, and assembly for institution of lector, acolyte, and catechist? What ministry would be most meaningful in the life of our parish? What resources can we identify for formation of those who seek institution? Save group impressions, notes, and responses. Plan to revisit at the next meeting.
- Ask and respond: Who in the parish and neighborhoods may be hungry or live in a food desert? Is it time to collect food pantry items to feed the hungry or to connect with a neighboring church community to help with summer food needs from a community garden?
- Discuss whether the parish would benefit from an adult vacation Bible school featuring a pitch-in supper and a brief Catholic update talk, provided by clergy, a catechist, or pastoral leader from a nearby parish. Consider asking young adults or two parish couples to plan three weekly gatherings.
- Determine how to use social media and the parish website to solicit donations of fresh flowers or plants from local yards for the worship space.

RENEWING AND REVITALIZING

- Review the approved parish budget for the coming year, usually set by midsummer. Are there worship needs that might fall outside of what is budgeted? Review the liturgical calendar and begin a list of hopes and dreams that small faith communities or parish groups could work on fulfilling during the year.
- Thank the servant leaders of the parish staff by providing a take-home basket supper for a staff member or deliver a Saturday picnic basket lunch for a staff member's family. Include a note of thanks from the committee.
- Plan to insert "Catholic Social Teaching: All Are in God's Image, Likeness," by Kathy Kuczka, in the bulletin, and post on the parish website. Parishioners will benefit from this clear outline about how to live Christ's teachings in our neighborhoods and the world.
- As a worship committee, make certain that there are several copies of *Prayer Services for Times of Need* (LTP, 2021) for parish staff and prayer leaders. This book includes nineteen complete celebrations of Liturgies of the Word for crisis situations (ritual prayer and music ideas).

SENDING FORTH

- Plan an early morning or early evening prayer outdoors. Build a prayer-table centerpiece with herbs, flowers, and grasses that grow in abundance. Select a song such as "For the Beauty of the Earth" (Tune: DIX www.youtube.com/watch?v=ovFGa OAFFIY) or "Come, You Thankful People, Come" (Tune: ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gw8 wCwv4NPU). Ask a lector to proclaim the selected song text as a poem. Invite the group to stand and sing, accompanied by a YouTube recording or a parish guitarist. Conclude with the Lord's Prayer.
- Gather at the font or around a large bowl of clear water surrounded by candles. Using the *Order of Baptism of Children* (OBC) for prayer, ask a member to proclaim Galatians 3:26–28 (192). After the reading, pray the litany of the saints (220A) and the hymn at OBC, 238. Conclude with the sign of the cross.

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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>.