

# 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 for the months ahead.)

## OPENING PRAYER

- Provide each person with a lighted candle for listening to a parish reader proclaim Isaiah 11:1–9. Reflect in silence by candlelight. Conclude by praying Psalm 22:23–31, with each half of the group reciting alternate verses.
- Give thanks for the “harvest”—of gardens, of Baptisms, or of whatever has been plentiful for the parish in the past few months. Pray either Collect from the Masses for Various Needs and Occasions, 28, “After the Harvest.” Follow that prayer with the singing of verses from “For the Beauty of the Earth” (tune: DIX).
- Invite the group to participate in lectio divina on paragraphs 5, 9, and 37 of the *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, as three people read one paragraph each, allowing time for reflection between readings. Conclude with the Opening Prayer from the Second Vatican Council.

## BACK TO THE FUTURE

- Check parish budget resources for sufficient funds to provide each member with a copy of *Guide for Liturgy Committees* (Liturgy Training Publications, 2009) and subscriptions to *Pastoral Liturgy*®. Such publications support and complement the ongoing liturgical catechesis for the worship committee.
- If you considered new members over the summer, invite them to attend the next two meetings, using these meetings as a time for their personal discernment. At the third meeting, ask for a commitment to join. Allow a veteran or two to process off the committee, using that “third meeting” to close their commitment.
- Send a thank-you note to each person on the Christian initiation inquiry team, enclosing the article “Welcoming the Catechumens” from the May/June *Pastoral Liturgy*.

## MOVING FORWARD

- Ask members to familiarize themselves with the article “Celebrating as One,” by Letitia Thornton, in this issue. Designate a facilitator and ask the following: Does the parish encourage cultural welcome and hospitality? How should we introduce such hospitality? How can the parish begin to grow in multicultural awareness and prayer? Keep notes on a flip chart, and commit to a start-up action plan by the next meeting.
- Schedule an update for readers and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion. Plan a ninety-minute gathering to polish posture and gesture, and to nurture spirituality.
- Support new sacristans with copies of *The Sacristy Manual*,

second edition, by G. Thomas Ryan, and the *Guide for Sacristans*, second edition, both from Liturgy Training Publications. Form a study group with the sacristans to review these books.

- The season of Advent approaches, with a calendar week for final preparations following the Thanksgiving holiday. Determine a plan for encouraging attendance at the liturgies for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, a holyday of obligation. Be certain that all parish schedules for Advent and the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord, which falls on a Monday, are envisioned, planned, and advertised. Schedules for meetings, a communal celebration of the Sacrament of Penance, and the gradual adornment of the worship space should be clearly thought-out and published. Check with the (arch)diocesan Office of Worship for guidance.
- Schedule a morning Mass for Thanksgiving Day. Encourage the members of music and hospitality in their ministries for the day. Check with the local food pantry about their needs, and invite parish members to bring whatever is needed. Ask several parish families to accept the donations in the gathering space. One parish had a theme of “snap, crackle, and spread the joy” last year, as a way to heed the local pantry’s request to bring peanut butter and cereal.
- Review the meeting schedule: a brief meeting may be required to cement preparations for the coming liturgical season.

## CLOSING PRAYER

- Since September is the Month of Our Lady of Sorrows, distribute copies of “Stabat Mater speciosa,” a thirteenth-century hymn that mirrors the Stabat Mater dolorosa. Prayerfully read this hymn of Mary’s joy (before her sorrows) antiphonally.
- Invite a parish flutist or guitarist to accompany the committee in singing verses of “The Summons” (tune: KELVINGROVE, arr. by John Bell, ©1987, GIA Publications).
- Provide copies of the bilingual “Salmo 50: Oh Dios, Crea en Mí / Create in Me,” (by Eleazar Cortés, ©1994, 1998, OCP Publications). Use the YouTube accompaniment and invite them to follow the verses in each person’s base language.

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