

Worship Meeting Agenda

(Editor's note: These agenda items provide a listing of possible topics to consider at your next parish liturgy meeting. Select the topics that will guide your preparation for the liturgical seasons ahead.)

A PRAYERFUL BEGINNING

- Center a bowl of fresh holly alongside a glass bowl of holy water and aspergillum. Recalling that it is still the season of Christmas, begin with a Hail Mary and invite a reader to read the lyrics of "The Holly and the Ivy." Next, listen to a YouTube recording of the song. Invite brief response from the group about how the wood of the cradle becomes the wood of the cross in the liturgical year. Ask the priest or deacon to bless and sprinkle abundantly, closing with the Sign of the Cross.
- Prepare copies of the Anima Christi (listed as Prayer of the Most Holy Redeemer) found in the last pages of *The Roman Missal*. Alternate women and men, reading each line.
- Use the text of the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* to pray the Intercessions for the Elect and the Candidates (558A). Conclude with the Lord's Prayer.

CONSIDER, EVALUATE, APPRECIATE

- Spend twenty minutes to consider the late fall parish liturgy: Did the parish observe Thanksgiving liturgically? Were different cultures attended to on the Solemnity of All Saints and the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed? Did the parish celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception well? How did Advent reflect gradual rejoicing, by different generations of the parish?
- Consider how hospitality was carried out during Christmas Time, the timing of the Masses, how well the liturgies were celebrated, and whether the budget was sufficient for worthy adornment of the worship space. Use the format of "commendations" and "recommendations" during a brief follow up. Anticipate Lent as a committee: review notes from the previous year, or initiate a list of remembered details from the previous Lent. Firmly set calendar dates for communal penance services, plus convenient times for parish devotions, family events, and intentional prayer and service opportunities for all generations in the parish.

ANTICIPATE AND ENVISION LENT

- Use "Lent: A Time for Inner Cleansing" and "Participating in Lent as a Family" in this issue of *Pastoral Liturgy*® as bulletin inserts or website postings. Comb www.PastoralLiturgy.org for more reprintable resources.
- Designate a Triduum team to provide a review of last year's Triduum. If possible, their review should include photos. Prior to the next meeting, ask the worship committee to read "The

Summons of the Eucharist," by Ronald Patrick Raab, csc, in this issue of *Pastoral Liturgy*®.

- Focus new energies on Ash Wednesday: envision and enact possibilities for evangelization, including abundant hospitality, soup and bread lunch and/or supper, handouts about the parish and its activities, and worship aids for the liturgy that include familiar, accessible music.
- Ask the chairperson to present a brief synopsis of the Lectionary for Lenten Sundays, Year B. (*Sourcebook for Sundays, Seasons, and Weekdays 2018*, published by LTP, can facilitate this.) Find ways to remind the parish priests about the importance of the Year A readings on the Sundays on which the elect are present for the scrutinies.
- Envision as a committee what needs to remain the same and what needs to change regarding the celebration of Lent in the parish. Reflect on who is not in the pews during this season.
- Reflect on the multiple natural disasters around the world and also the tragic murders in the United States. Invite two volunteers to compile electronic resources for personal prayer, for liturgies of lament, and the Universal Prayer at Mass, and to include music selections for times of tragedy. Ask them to share this project with the worship committee at the end of Lent and with all parish committees and staff after Easter.

SENDING FORTH

- Invite the deacon to proclaim The Announcement of Easter and the Moveable Feasts or ask the music director to sing this proclamation as the closing prayer (see the chant in Appendix I of the Roman Missal). Provide a beautifully printed copy for each committee member.
- Use the Collect and the Prayer Over the Offerings 1, from the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Ordinary Time, concluding with three Hail Marys.
- Pray the formulary for the Universal Prayer in Christmas Time, from *The Roman Missal*. Ask a leader to take the part of the priest, and invite members of the group to add other intercessions before the concluding oration.

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At www.PastoralLiturgy.org

Find and share this article with parish staff and the liturgy committee at the following URL: <http://www.pastoral-liturgy.org/resources/PSLV049I01WorshipMeetingAgenda.pdf>.