

Worship Meeting Agenda

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

OPENING PRAYER

- Light a group of candles, and share the joy of the Easter Proclamation once again. Begin with the Sign of the Cross, and then listen prayerfully to the Exsultet from a YouTube recording (look for the recording of the translation used in the 2011 Missal), with each person following along with a copy of the text and music.
- Invite a keyboard player or a guitarist to share the Easter Alleluia (O FILII ET FILIAE, published in many hymnals) and verses. Provide the music for all to participate. Stand as you proclaim this beautiful tune as prayer.
- Ask a prayer leader to introduce the Gospel for the Vigil of Pentecost (John 7:37–39), explaining briefly that Jesus says that “living water” will come through him. This water refers to the Holy Spirit, not yet descended. Having prepared a large bowl of water to serve as a symbol of “living water,” invite each person to float a candle. Light each candle, and all stand for the reading of the Gospel.

REVIEWING GOOD WORK

- Revisit the Triduum: share photos and catalog electronically. Consider each celebration, using categories that will yield commendations and recommendations. Make a spreadsheet (or use large chart paper on the wall) that lists art and environment, music, hospitality for the liturgy, worship aids, sound and lighting, vestments, symbols, and who came to church on these days (young adults, families, visitors, guests). Set a time limit of fifteen minutes to remark on each day of the Triduum.
- Consider the Easter floral: did the budget work sufficiently to continue the Great Fifty Days? Did the People of God realize the length of Easter Time? If necessary, brainstorm briefly to problem solve, and take notes.
- Did every Mass on Easter Sunday exhaust the notion of abundant joy? Ask if the hospitality matched the reverberating joy, and if there were sufficient ministers for each ministry. Was music plentiful for each Mass? Was special care taken that the Prayer of the Faithful encompassed the needs of each Easter congregation? Discuss and respond as accurately as possible, and save for January 2020 preparation.
- If you already have celebrated Pentecost, ask around the table if the day was treated as an important solemnity in all aspects of liturgical ministry. Determine any improvements to the liturgies of Pentecost, using the parish liturgical ministries as your focus.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR RENEWING FAITH

- Begin a thirty-minute discussion that yields creative answers to: What can the committee do if the choir takes the summer off (a family choir, a violin choir, a fifth-grade choir)? How can the summer climate be used to welcome people to our parish? For example, an ice cream social would provide a “cool welcome.” Hospitality is a key to evangelization.
- Is it time to encourage the Christian initiation leaders and team to put the welcome sign out for anyone interested in becoming Catholic? Create and invite a special inquiry team for June, and see if anyone who may have attended the Triduum as a visitor wants to know more. Encourage the current leaders to rest, and see if some of the veterans will resurface to help out. Anticipate the possibility of the Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens in August.
- Ask two members of the worship committee to review *Signs and Symbols of the Liturgy: An Experience of Ritual and Catechesis*, by Michael Ruzicki, Victoria M. Tufano, D. Todd Williamson, and Terry Navarro (Liturgy Training Publications, 2018). Invite a lay leader of prayer from the parish to collaborate, and include as many ministry leaders as possible in a morning (or evening) exercise of signs and symbols. A picnic lunch or dinner could follow.
- Discuss who is not present at Mass. Look at a map of the parish, and find places where the Gospel could be taken, such as the workplaces, restaurants, healthcare facilities, and especially to shelters and food pantries. How might the worship committee create missionary disciples?

SENDING FORTH

- Invite the parish deacon or priest to bless and recommission each member, using the *Book of Blessings*. Send the members home with a fresh candle.
- For a closing reflection, ask a lector to read “God Appears in the Ordinary,” by Kathryn Ball-Boruff in this issue. Spend three minutes quietly recognizing when you were last in the presence of God.
- Pray the Apostles’ Creed, and invite several persons to lead the Litany of the Saints.

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