

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.)

BEGIN WITH PRAYER

- To welcome May as the Month of Our Lady, pray the Magnificat (Luke 1:4–55) and then the Angelus.
- Gather around the font in the worship space or around a large, clear bowl of blessed water in the meeting room. Begin with the sign of the cross, touching the holy water, and prayerfully proclaim the shorter form of the Exsultet. A leader closes the prayer with the solemn blessing for Easter Time (Blessings at the End of Mass, 6) in *The Roman Missal*.
- Listen to the YouTube recording of “These Alone Are Enough” (Dan Schutte © 2004, OCP) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2A-PLrMnyBg>, by the Georgetown University Music Ministry Virtual Choir. Replay the recording and ask members to join the choir in sung prayer.

SEASONAL SUMMATIONS

- Allow time to evaluate the season of Easter, using the criteria “I appreciated . . .” and “We need more or less of . . .” Avoid negative impressions and mediate “I liked” or “I didn’t like” language: make it substantive, positive, and helpful. Archive the notes or thoughts for the next liturgical year.
- Inquire about whether the art and environment group had the budget, information, and volunteers needed for the Sacred Paschal Triduum and Easter Time. Review whether the music ministry was supported in terms of purchasing new music, stipends for extra musicians, and piano and organ tuning.
- Consider what can be done catechetically and ministerially for parishioners to develop an understanding of the liturgical year, including feast days and solemnities.
- Discuss ways that communication can be improved in the parish. Request that two committee members research whether a boost in technology is needed for the website. Invite other members to review whether signage inside and outside of the church buildings is inviting.

LITURGICAL ANTICIPATION

- Challenge the committee members to meet during the summer, noting that the weather may permit gathering for an early evening picnic, a Saturday morning meeting centered around morning prayer, or possibly a cookout. Pray for vocations and vacations: use any universal prayer suggestion for May or June in *Sourcebook for Sundays, Seasons, and Weekdays 2024* (Liturgy Training Publications, 2023) as you celebrate the liturgy of the world.

- Prior to the meeting, ask members to read “Bringing the Light of Christ to Those Living with Dementia,” by Kathryn Fassbender, in this issue. Discuss the relevance of this article for the parish, then schedule a blessing at all Masses for caregivers and companions of those who journey with individuals with dementia. Consider whether the parish should be a center for a support group for caregivers.
- Plan to distribute this issue’s downloadable insert “Celebrating Mass as a Family,” by Kathryn Ball-Boruff, in the bulletin and by posting it on the parish website and online social media. Invite members to review the parish’s hospitality to families, especially those with young children. How can families be welcomed?
- Remind the writer of petitions for the universal prayer to include first communicants and graduates of eighth grade, high school, and college, and the newly baptized infants. Also include in prayer the catechists who plan and implement vacation Bible school for the parish children.
- Plan to alert liturgy, music, and school staff of the *Order of Crowning an Image of the Blessed Virgin Mary*. Included in the ritual are the order of service, with prayers, Scripture, and music suggestions. The crowning of an image of the Blessed Virgin Mary can take place within Mass, within evening prayer, or within a celebration of the Word of God.

SENDING FORTH IN MISSION

- Invite a guitarist to lead the verses (or conclude the meeting around a keyboard) to sing and pray “I Say ‘Yes,’ Lord / Digo ‘Sí,’ Señor” (Donna Peña © 1989, GIA Publications).
- Gather around the lighted paschal candle. After a lector introduces the Pentecost sequence *Veni, Sancte Spiritus*, all proclaim the text from the lectionary. Conclude as another reader leads the universal prayer for Pentecost from *Sourcebook for Sundays, Seasons, and Weekdays 2023* (p. 218).
- Stand and make the sign of the cross. Pray together the Apostles’ Creed, and finish with a sign of peace.

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At www.PastoralLiturgy.org

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