

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.)

PREPARATION

- Ask the committee members to read “The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults: The Journey Continues” by Donna M. Eschenauer in this issue of *Pastoral Liturgy*®. Emphasize the implementation date for the new ritual text. Ask worship committee members to bring the article and any questions they may have to the next meeting.

BEGIN WITH PRAYER

- Prepare a small clay (“earthen vessel”) pot for each person, with a tea light inserted. Light each candle, make the sign of the cross, and invite a lector to proclaim 2 Corinthians 4: 5–17. With a parish musician or YouTube music (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ETVaQoAjqOk>), sing and pray “Earthen Vessels” (John B. Foley, sj, ©1975, OCP). Invite members to take the clay pots home for their personal prayer space.
- Remind the committee that on September 9 Catholics in the United States observe the National Day of Prayer for Peace in Our Communities. Remember also that parishes may also observe the anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. Proclaim Matthew 18:10–20. Reflect silently for three minutes on how liturgy leads us to reconcile with God and others. Pray together, using General Formula I (appendix V in *The Roman Missal*) followed by the Lord’s Prayer.

CONSIDER AND DECIDE

- Solicit committee meeting time preferences, then determine the annual meeting schedule. Be sure to allow time for proper preparation of each liturgical season.
- Order copies of *Sourcebook for Sundays, Seasons, and Weekdays 2025* (LTP) for each member of the worship committee and for any staff involved with liturgy.
- Provide bulletin and website editors with a copy of “Celebrating God’s Blessings” from this issue. Invite the editors to share this resource via print or social media.
- Assess the parish’s ability to call forward new musicians, hospitality ministers, lectors and extraordinary ministers of holy Communion. If being “church” is about relationship, are our invitations to ministry extended in a personal, relational way?
- Discuss how the parish currently supports its hospitality ministry. Is there sufficient energy and resources to welcome all present at Mass on Sunday? What is more needed? List suggestions and make decisions at the next meeting.

- Allow sufficient time to discuss the article “The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults: The Journey Continues.” Plan to enable and support the implementation of the revised rite within the parish. Ask the initiation team what support they need.

ANTICIPATING THE SEASON

- Consider the patronal feast day of your parish community. Discuss and schedule some simple observances to mark the occasion.
- Determine whether there is a *Book of the Dead* for use during the month of November. Discuss briefly how the parish honors its deceased members and family members. Note and prepare for any cultural observances that may be important to members of the community.
- Review both content and opportunities for ministry listed on the parish website. Does any information need updating? Is a liturgical calendar accessible online (including important dates from the diocese and United States Conference of Catholic Bishops)?
- Arrange blessings that celebrate the harvest and the laborers if your parish is rural. Praise God in the universal prayer each Sunday for the abundance of creation. Consider starting a book club: begin with Pope Francis’ encyclical *Laudato si’* (2015).
- Ask and respond: How will the parish support participation in the national election day on November 5? This is an appropriate opportunity to prepare Mass for Various Needs, using the collect (n. 21, *The Roman Missal*) For the Nation or State. Schedule the Mass at a convenient time, and suggest that parishioners visit the polling place and then attend Mass.

SENDING FORTH

- Pray the Eucharistic Prayer II for Reconciliation from *The Roman Missal*. Conclude with three Hail Marys for peace in families and in the world.
- Use the *Book of Blessings* (456 A), and pray together the prayer to the Holy Spirit, used before every session of the Second Vatican Council. Share a sign of peace.

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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>.