

Worship Meeting Agenda

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

OPENING PRAYER

- Ask a committee member to gently proclaim the Preface for Thanksgiving (Fourth Thursday in November, in the Proper of the Saints in *The Roman Missal*), and plan a five-minute reflection on its timeliness. Read it again, and all join in the “Holy, holy, holy” at the end of this prayer.
- Invite the leader of the ministry of readers to proclaim the Gospel from the Solemnity of All Saints (Matthew 5:1–12). Ask the committee to spend three minutes in silent reflection on these Beatitudes. Use seven minutes to discuss how this Gospel provides us with the “commandments of the New Testament.” Conclude with the Lord’s Prayer.
- Proclaim John 12:23–26, often used at funerals. The prayer leader can guide the group in quiet reflection on the text, as they listen to “Unless A Grain of Wheat” (Bernadette Farrell ©1983, OCP Publications). Locate a YouTube video with song text or invite a parish musician to lead and accompany the song.

ANTICIPATING HOLIDAYS AND HOLYDAYS

- A week prior to the meeting, send the Advent notes and photos from your electronic files, for review. Plans for the season of Advent, and anticipating the season of Christmas, will go more smoothly with these materials. (If the worship committee hasn’t begun to store photos and a bulleted summary of each liturgical season, now is the time to begin.)
- Is the Thanksgiving Day Mass scheduled at a convenient time for families? Be sure that music and worship are accessible to visitors and guests. Contact the local charities and ask if they need food for donation, sweaters, or household supplies. Remind the community that evangelization is continuous. Review together Joseph Milner’s “Openness to Growth in Faith Leads Others to Seek God” in this issue of *Pastoral Liturgy*.
- Consider budget allotments for the liturgical environment for the end of Ordinary Time, Advent, and Christmas Time. Explore a team approach to designing the deepening green environment of Ordinary Time, and signal the festivity of the celebration of the last Sunday of the liturgical year.
- Plan to catechize the congregation about the seasons of Advent and Christmas. (Christmas decor should not be removed until the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.)
- Make an effort to create, advertise, and support a parish celebration of Simbang Gabi, Las Parrandas, or Las Posadas if there are those who would appreciate these celebrations in the parish. Start simply and allow ethnic celebrations to blossom.

EVANGELIZATION

- Form a small group to review short, reader-friendly articles that might be published in the parish bulletin and on the website. Use *Pastoral Liturgy* bulletin inserts from <http://www.pastoralliturgy.org/archive.php> (scroll down to Liturgical Catechesis).
- Do the ministry leaders have a copy of the *Sourcebook for Sundays, Seasons, and Weekdays 2020* (LTP)? Consider making this newly redesigned publication available to all members of the parish. Make copies of the book available where people gather for meetings.
- Set a date and plan a ministry refreshment morning in January to sustain some of the “spirit of Christmas” for all liturgical ministers. Consider that a group of young adults or a parish might plan a simple celebration and some intentional prayer for all those in liturgical ministry. The worship committee can select a speaker, perhaps from a nearby parish, for a brief half-hour talk.
- In anticipating the next worship committee agenda, remind members to set aside twenty minutes to write a response to the questions: “When we gather for Sunday worship, who is not here?” and “How do we get people to return, and how might we attract new people to our church community?”

SENDING FORTH

- Begin with the Sign of the Cross, and pray the Litany of the Saints, found in the Missal (The Easter Vigil, n. 43). If a parish cantor will lead, sing the Litany of the Saints. Be sure to include the prayer “for candidates to be baptized” at the end of the Easter Vigil litany.
- Stand for the Gospel reading, each person holding a lighted candle. Prayerfully proclaim Luke 2:1–20, and end with the Hail Mary. Send each member home with a candle, as a reminder of the light of Christ that breaks constantly into our world, when we see with our hearts.
- Light a central candle, and pray Night Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours (or another appropriate version for the hour of the meeting), including a hymn at the beginning.

PATRICIA J. HUGHES, DMIN, is the director of the Office of Worship for the Diocese of Dallas.

At www.PastoralLiturgy.org

Find and share this article with parish staff and the liturgy committee at: <http://www.pastoralliturgy.org/resources/WorshipMeetingAgenda.pdf>.