

Ministries: Small-Group Liturgy Preparation

Music

Your small group is responsible for choosing music and for recruiting others to help lead the class in song. Using the resources supplied by your teacher, be sure to choose songs that are known to your community and that are appropriate. You may choose to use CDs or audio files, sing *a capella*, or include musicians to help lead the assembly. Confer with your teacher on the best hymnal, worship aid, or missal to provide for the assembly so they can join in worshipping by song.

The following parts of the Mass should be sung:

- Gathering Song
- Gospel Acclamation (Alleluia or Lenten Gospel Acclamation)
- Preparation of the Gifts
- Communion
- Song of Sending Forth

Your school or parish community might have a favorite Mass setting. Many will probably be very familiar with the setting your community uses for the following:

- Holy, Holy, Holy
- Memorial Acclamation
- Great Amen
- Lamb of God

Your group can also decide whether to use a musical setting for the Lord's Prayer.

Proclaiming and Interpreting the Word

Group for First Reading

Your group is responsible for helping to bring alive the First Reading. You are also responsible for getting a volunteer to proclaim the First Reading.

Determine how your group will bring this reading alive for the assembly: Can you make signs or act it out in some way? Do you want to write a brief explanation of the reading? What will help us to pay more attention to this reading?

Group for Gospel Reading

Your group is responsible for helping the assembly visualize the Gospel reading. Prior to the celebration of the class liturgy, be sure to talk to the priest who is presiding in order to ensure that he knows what your group is planning on doing and to convey any specific instructions that he may need.

Determine how your group will help interpret this Gospel reading. How will you bring it alive for your class? Will you act out what is being read? Will you create *tableaux vivants* (a series of still-life



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scenes presented as the reading is proclaimed)? Will you do a modern interpretation of the reading? How can you help the assembly to pay closer attention as this reading is proclaimed?

For both groups

Read your Scripture text as a group. Consider the following:

- What words or images stand out for you?
- What catches your attention about this reading?
- What do you think it means?
- What is important about this text?

Homily Tips

Your group is responsible for providing some “homily tips” to the presider so that the homily can be relevant to the lives of teens in general and to the needs and concerns of your classmates in particular. First, read both the First Reading and the Gospel reading as a group. As you read both texts, consider and discuss the following questions. Be sure that you have at least one good, clear copy of your discussion notes to share with the presider.

- What words or images stand out for you about both texts?
- What catches your attention or strikes you about these readings?
- Are there similar ideas, images, stories, or themes that are carried through both readings?
- What questions do you have about the text—either questions of clarification or questions that you would like to ask the characters in the passage, or the writers of the passage?
- What, do you think, is the significance or meaning of these Scripture passages?
- What message do you think young people today, and especially in your school community, need to hear in relationship to these readings?
- What homily tips or suggestions would you like to offer to the presider?

Intercessions

Your group is responsible for both writing *and* reading the intercessions. You have to decide for whom and for what we shall pray. There are particular groups and situations for whom we must always pray, such as the Church, world leaders, the sick, and the dying. What other situations in the school and local community merit special consideration and need to be voiced in our prayer?

How will the assembly respond to the intercessions (e.g., “Lord, hear our prayer” or “Merciful God, hear us”)? Will the response be spoken or sung?



Environment

Your group is responsible for the environment in the worship space and ensuring that everything is in its proper place.

1. In terms of the environment, you will need to consider these questions:
 - What symbols do you want to bring in or highlight? How will you do this?
 - Will you use cloth or fabric to enhance the space and to emphasize the current liturgical season?
 - Will you use candles? If so, where will you place them?
 - Will you use incense? If so, at what points during the liturgy? Where will you place the incense bowl or thurifer?
 - If you can move the altar, ambo, and chairs, where do you want to put them? Will you put the chairs in a circle, in rows, or in another configuration? Where will the altar go? Where will you place the ambo?
2. In terms of ensuring that everything is prepared for prayer, your group is also responsible for placing the following items:
 - *The Roman Missal*
 - *Lectionary for Mass*
 - chalice and paten
 - corporal and purificator(s)
 - water cruet
 - small bowl and towel for the lavabo
3. Confer with your teacher about setting out the Eucharistic elements of bread and wine.
4. Finally, how far in advance will you prepare the environment for liturgy? Make sure you have adequate time prior to the start of Mass to set up everything in its proper place. Confer with your teacher to make sure that the time you have chosen will work.

