

Ministries: Small-Group Liturgy Preparation

Music

Your small group is responsible for choosing and 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, sing *a cappella*, or include musicians to help lead the assembly in song. The following parts of the Mass should be sung:

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

It is more than likely that your school or parish community has 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



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Reading of 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.

Group for Gospel Reading: _____

Your group is responsible for helping the community visualize the Gospel. Prior to the celebration of the class liturgy, be sure to talk to the priest who is presiding so he knows what your group is planning to do and so you can give him any specific instructions.

For Both Groups

First, 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?

Group for First Reading

Next 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

Next determine how your group will help interpret this Gospel. How will you bring it alive for your class? Will you act out what is being read? Will you do a *Tableaux Vivant* (a series of still life scenes presented as the reading is proclaimed)? Will you do a modern interpretation of the reading? How can you help participants pay closer attention as this reading is proclaimed?



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Homily Tips

Your group is responsible for providing some homily tips to the presider to help to make the homily ever more relevant to the lives of teens. First, read both the First Reading (_____) and the Gospel (_____) as a group. As you read both texts, consider and discuss the following questions. Be sure 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 similar ideas, images, stories, or themes 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, or the writers of, the passages?
- 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?



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Intercessions

Your group is responsible for both writing *and* reading the intercessions! You have to decide for whom and for what the large group shall pray. There are particular groups and situations for whom the group must pray, such as the Church, world leaders, the sick, and the dying. But what other situations in the school and local community merit special consideration and need to be voiced in our prayer? Also, how will the community respond to the intercessions (e.g., “Lord, hear our prayer” or “Merciful God, hear us”)? Will the responses be sung or spoken?



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Environment

Your group is responsible for the environment in the worship space and ensuring that everything is in its proper place. In terms of the environment, you will need to consider the following:

- What symbols do you want to bring in or highlight? How will you do this?
- Will you make posters?
- Will you use cloth or fabric to make the space look nice?
- 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 another configuration? Where will the altar go? Where will you place the ambo?

In terms of ensuring that everything is prepared for prayer, your group is also responsible for setting out the *Sacramentary*, setting up the chalice and paten, setting out the corporal and purificator, placing the *Lectionary* on the ambo, placing and lighting the candles, and adding the water cruet and water and towel for cleansing. Confer with your teacher about setting out the Eucharistic elements of bread and wine.

Finally, how far in advance will you prepare the environment for liturgy? Make sure you have adequate time prior to the Mass to set up everything in its proper place. Confer with your teacher to make sure the time you have chosen is suitable.

