



The National Association of Pastoral Musicians
Director of Music Ministry Division

Certification

Liturgical
Component
Exam Prep

Part I: EXAMINATION PREPARATION

SCENARIO I: Rites of the Church

- *Easter Vigil with Celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation*
- *Celebration of Infant Baptism at Sunday Mass*
- *Celebration of Baptism Outside of Mass*
- *Celebration of First Eucharist (at Sunday Mass)*
- *Anointing of the Sick at Sunday Mass*
- *Communal Penance Celebration (Form 2) during Advent or Lent*
- *Celebration of Marriage during Mass*
- *Celebration of Marriage between a Catholic and an Unbaptized Person*
- *Funeral Rites: Vigil, Funeral Liturgy, Committal*
- *Confirmation*

In each of the above situations, contribute to the preparation of the liturgy, taking into consideration the following questions:

1. Are there important biblical, historical, and theological considerations that should serve as a foundation for your planning? Consult pertinent church documents, especially the introductions to the rites.
2. Who will be present for the celebration? How will the make-up of the assembly affect the planning for the liturgy?
3. What preparation will have been offered to those who will be involved in the rites, such as candidates, sponsors, godparents, family members?
4. What is the overall structure of the rite? Which parts are most important? Are there optional parts that should be retained or omitted?
5. What movements and gestures are used in the rite? What movements or gestures are made by the whole assembly, by the presider, by other ministers?
6. How should the environment be planned so that it fosters the movement of the rite, and provides an appropriate context for its celebration?
7. What options for the texts of the rite should be considered: scripture readings, prayers, litanies, intercessions?

8. What are the most important musical elements of the rite: acclamations, processional songs, blessing prayers, dialogues, responses? How are these tied to the major ritual actions?
9. What would be appropriate choices for psalms, hymns and songs for this rite?
10. How could choral and instrumental music be used to support the celebration of the rite?

SCENARIO II: Seasons of the Liturgical Year

- *Advent*
- *Christmas Season*
- *Lent*
- *Easter Season*
- *Ordinary Time*

1. How has the history of this season affected the way that it is celebrated in the Church today?
2. How is the season structured? Is there movement within the season from its beginning to its culmination?
3. What are the major scriptural images associated with this season?
4. Are there elements of the Sunday Eucharist that are to be omitted or highlighted during this season?
5. How might a liturgy team deal with the liturgical environment for this season?
6. Are there gestures or movements to be highlighted or downplayed during this season?
7. How would the celebration of this season affect the shape of each of the major parts of the eucharistic liturgy: introductory rites, liturgy of the Word, liturgy of the Eucharist, concluding rite?
8. What musical elements should be highlighted or downplayed (even omitted) during this season?
9. Which of the psalms might be sung during this season during the entrance rite, after the first reading, and/or during communion? What musical settings of these psalms would you choose, and why?
10. Are there important rituals that are celebrated during this season (e.g., scrutinies during Lent)? In what way might these serve as the centerpiece of the entire season?
11. What items of ritual music might be used throughout this season (e.g., acclamations, responses)? What hymns or songs?

SCENARIO III: Celebrations of Mary and the Saints

- *Mary, Mother of God (Jan 1)*
- *Immaculate Conception (Dec 8)*
- *Assumption (Aug 15)*
- *All Saints (Nov 1)*
- *Birth of John the Baptist (June 24)*
- *Peter and Paul (June 29)*

1. How has the history of this feast affected the way that it is celebrated in the Church today?
2. Why is this feast celebrated on this particular day? Is it related to the season during which it is celebrated? Are there important doctrinal elements associated with this feast?
3. How do the scripture readings for this feast help to unlock its meaning for those who gather to celebrate it?
4. Are there elements of the eucharistic liturgy that are to be omitted or highlighted on this feast?
5. How might a liturgy team deal with the liturgical environment for this feast?
6. Are there gestures or movements to be highlighted or downplayed on this feast?
7. How would the celebration of this feast affect the shape of each of the major parts of the eucharistic liturgy: introductory rites, liturgy of the Word, liturgy of the Eucharist, concluding rite?
8. What musical elements should be highlighted or downplayed (even omitted) during this feast?
9. What items of ritual music might be used for this feast (e.g., acclamations, responses)? What psalms, hymns or songs?

SCENARIO IV: Sunday Celebration of the Eucharist

- *Introductory Rites*
- *Liturgy of the Word*
- *Liturgy of the Eucharist*
- *Concluding Rite*

1. The parish liturgy committee has asked you to help them examine the celebration of the Sunday Eucharist in your parish. Take each of the four parts of the liturgy listed above, and help them to study and evaluate the Sunday liturgy in their own community. Take into account the following elements:

Biblical, Historical, Theological Background
Gesture and Movement
Environment
Ministries
Texts
Music

SCENARIO V: Liturgy with Children

- *Sunday Liturgy of the Word apart from the Assembly*
- *Sunday Liturgy with a Large Number of Children Participating*
- *Weekday Liturgy for Children in a Catholic School*

1. Your parish liturgy committee has decided that it should begin a weekly celebration of the Word for children apart from the assembly. You have been asked to submit a plan to implement this celebration. Be sure to use the pertinent liturgical documents in drawing up your plan. Include the following elements:

Place of Celebration and Environment
Ministries
Active Participation of the Children
Texts
Gesture and Movement
Music (especially psalm and gospel acclamation)

2. Your parish liturgy team is concerned that there are many children present at Sunday Mass, but that they are not involved or even acknowledged. It is not possible to have a separate liturgy of the Word for them. How would you suggest that this problem be addressed in the context of the larger Sunday assembly?
3. The faculty of the parish school has invited you to work with them to evaluate the celebration of their school liturgies. How would you structure such an evaluation? What are the important elements to be considered?

PART II: Written Paper based on an approved topic

- The paper may be on a subject of the candidate's interest and choosing, using appropriate footnoting.
- This can be submitted at any time during the certification process.
- It will be read and comments provided for the candidate.
- These papers may be submitted for publishing in an appropriate format by NPM at some time in the future.

PART III: Objective exam based upon the Liturgical Documents

- Exam will be administered at a convention. Apply by May 1 to take this exam during a summer convention.
- The exam will consist of phrases extracted from the following documents, to be put into their context, in the form of “matching”.
- The documents included on the exam are the primary documents with which the candidate should be familiar:
(Refer to the *Liturgical Documents Study Guide*)
 - Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy
 - Musicam Sacram
 - Music in Catholic Worship
 - Liturgical Music Today
 - Directory for Masses with Children
 - Norms for the Distribution of Communion
 - General Instruction to the Roman Missal
 - Built of Living Stone
 - Liturgiam Authenticam