



Praise and Worship at Magnificat Meals

Purpose and Guidelines for Praise and Worship

The Mission of Magnificat®

Magnificat exists to evangelize and to encourage Catholic women to grow in holiness through opening more fully to the power and the gifts of the Holy Spirit.



Purpose of Praise and Worship

is to give the Lord the honor that is due His Name (Psalm 65:1 “To you we owe a hymn of praise, O God in Zion.”)

An **important part** of the Magnificat Meal is the period of time - perhaps 20 minutes - **devoted to praise and worship.**

The Leader of this prayer time seeks **to facilitate worship** and to **call forth the gifts of the Spirit.**

As an instrument of the Holy Spirit, her role (as worship leader) is to **prepare those present to open their hearts to the Lord** so that they may be **aware of His presence** in the assembly and be ready to **hear God’s word** through the testimony of the speaker.

(Appendix: 75)

Praise and worship allows the stirring up of the gifts of the Holy Spirit including such gifts as prophecy, wisdom through the reading of God’s Word, praying in tongues, healing, revelation, reconciliation and more.

Purpose of Praise and Worship:
Praise and worship opens people up to encounter the presence of the Lord (Psalm 22:3 “The Lord inhabits the praise of His people.”)

- Like John the Baptist, the Leader is to **prepare the way of the Lord.**

The Leader’s preparation for this role should include:

- 1) personal prayer to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit for a “theme” and
- 2) practice with the music ministry in order to become familiar with the hymns in their repertoire and also to develop a rapport which will enable them to work together smoothly and comfortably.

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Praise and Worship Leadership

The Praise and Worship Leader's responsibilities are:

- to be a liaison between the Music Ministry and the Service Team.

- to choose, in collaboration with the Music Ministry, appropriate music for the Magnificat Meal.

- to arrange the time and place for rehearsals and to contact each member regarding the arrangements.

- to supply musicians with the music agenda, the lyrics to songs either on song sheets or PowerPoint, and copies of sheet music that are needed.

- ***to make sure that the group observes all copyright laws. The chairwoman secures necessary permission for use of music or text.***

- to lead the congregation during Magnificat Meals in song and praise.

- to set up any necessary audio or visual equipment.

- to see that the congregation has song sheets during the Meal; that is, songbooks or overhead projectors. Again, observe all copyright laws.

Any of these duties can, and should be, delegated by the leader to other members of the Music Ministry.

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Praise and Worship Leader

Responsibilities of and key points for leading praise and worship

You are leading praise and worship, **not just songs**. This is not entertainment – it is prayer through song.

You should actively listen to the Holy Spirit when you choose your music, as you prepare with your group (if you have one), and during Praise and Worship.

You are the lens the Holy Spirit focuses through.

Listen to God's voice.

The people should encounter Christ in Worship.

(Dan Dirkes, NSC Council member)

Praise and Worship leaders are teachers - you instruct and encourage others how to worship. Give short encouragements as to how people should enter into worship.

Worship is always a progression. As we start with the high praises (vibrant worship songs), this helps us to break through our human focus and to focus on the Lord, magnifying Him. The high praises should then lead us to intimacy and closeness to Jesus and the heart of the Father (more reflective, surrendering songs) through the Holy Spirit.

Anyone involved in any kind of leadership should always be devoting time to personal prayer.



Praise and Worship Leadership

Prayer Leadership (leading praise and worship) is a **key ministry**.

Discerning persons with this gift constitute one of the more important functions of the local Service Team.

Sometimes the ministry of prayer leadership is performed by a member of the local Service Team who presides at the Magnificat Meal.

However, it may be appropriate for someone not on the Service Team to exercise the ministry of prayer leadership.

In this case, a member of the Service Team should still preside at the Magnificat Meal.

(Handbook: C-33-34)





Music Ministry Purpose

PROVIDE MUSICAL SUPPORT TO THE MEAL BY:

- gathering the body to encourage a spirit of praise and worship.
- drawing the group into a time of prayer and praise of God's goodness.
- supporting the speaker's testimony with appropriate music for the occasion or theme of her witness.

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Music Ministry: Pertinent Issues

- It is in the best interest of the Chapter for the **music group** that leads praise and worship to be **Catholic**.
- A Catholic music group will have knowledge of Marian and Eucharistic hymns and bring the Catholic authenticity and flavor to praise and worship.
- If a Chapter cannot find a Catholic music group, spirit-filled praise CDs could be used with those in attendance singing along. CST can offer suggestions about CDs to use.
- If a Chapter is having a difficult time finding a Catholic praise and worship music group, begin to pray.
- **We may find that we “do not receive because we do not ask.”** James 4:3

(Appendix 41-42)



Music Ministry

Magnificat is a women's ministry so it is **most appropriate** that the music group be **composed of women**; however, a man may be included if deemed necessary.

A music group **may receive** a stipend for its services, if deemed appropriate and if funds are available.

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Membership in the Music Ministry

MEMBERSHIP IS OPEN TO THOSE WHO

- have musical gifts and talents and want to use them in service.
- can be committed to attend rehearsals and events regularly.
- support the ministry through prayer.
- support the objectives of Magnificat.

(Appendix: 40-41)

Worship Leader:



In a group like those present at a Magnificat Meal, it is important to give some orientation to worship in the Holy Spirit; that is, an expectation of the presence of the charismatic gifts in the worship of the Lord.

Praise and Worship During the Meal

Service Team: Introduce Leader of praise and worship, if other than M.C.

Praise and Worship Leader:

Invite guests to stand, if they are able.

May open with a song, then praise and another song, allowing time for any inspired Scripture reading or tested prophecy.

At some point, you may invite the guests to be seated if they wish but stand for the closing song.

(Appendix: 75)

(There may be an opening song for the Meal program.)



Praise and Worship at Virtual Events

Visit the website:

www.Magnificat-ministry.org

Check *Meal/Events*, reviewing *Music Licenses* and *Virtual Meetings*



From Fr. Harold Cohen:

The role of the worship leader at **Magnificat**[®] is:

- to be the Holy Spirit's instrument in opening the hearts of all present to the Lord and to the word to be delivered by the speaker.
- to facilitate worship, to call forth the gifts of the Spirit, and to follow His lead as He moves among His people.
- not** to give her testimony or to preach. Her words are to explain and encourage worship as well as the experience of the charismatic gifts to prepare hearts to listen to the speaker.
- to prepare the way for the Lord.

The Battle Belongs to the Lord

2 Chronicles 20: 1-22 gives great wisdom to all music ministers and praise and worship leaders. The battle is won in praise.

Do not let sound equipment difficulties, any kind of chaos, leadership concerns, miscommunication, or any concern bring disunity to your music team or with the local Service Team.

“Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.” Eph. 4: 2-3

All of this information (and much more)
is in the Magnificat Handbook.

Sing to the Lord a new Song! Ps 96:1