

Epiphany Catholic Community

of St Anthony of Padua, St Dominic and Most Precious Blood

Synod Listening Sessions

“For a Synodal Church: communion, participation and mission.”

The Fundamental Question

The fundamental question this Synod poses is the following: A synodal Church, in announcing the Gospel, “journeys together.” How is this “journeying together” happening today in your local Church? What steps does the Holy Spirit invite us to take to grow in our “journeying together”?

In responding to this question, we are invited to:

- *Recall our experiences* (See): What experiences of our local Church does this question call to mind?
- *Re-read these experiences in greater depth* (Judge): What joys did they bring? What difficulties and obstacles have they encountered? What wounds did they reveal? What insights have they elicited?
- *Gather the fruits to share* (Act): Where in these experiences does the voice of the Holy Spirit resound? What is the Holy Spirit asking of us? What are the prospects for change? What paths are opening up for our local Church?

Schedule of Listening Sessions

Before or After Mass (in Person):

Saturday, March 5, 2022	2:00pm	St Dominic Church	(before 4:30pm Mass)
Sunday, March 13, 2022	10:30am	St Anthony Church	(after 9:30am Mass)
Sunday, March 20, 2022	11:00am	Most Precious Blood	(after 10:00am Mass)
Sunday, March 27, 2022	9:30am	St Dominic Church	(after 8:30am Mass)
Sunday, April 3, 2022	12:30pm	St Anthony Church	(after 11:30am Mass)

Wednesday Evenings in Lent (via Zoom Meetings):

Registration link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZEvcuurqDojGtb7PNhAza6dC9HpAqJcfwvz>

Monday, March 7	7:00pm
Thursday, March 17	7:00pm
Thursday, March 24	7:00pm

Prayer for the Synod

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name.
With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts;
Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.
We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions.
Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.
All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen.



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What Is A Synod? What Does “Synodality” Mean?

‘Synod’: is a Greek word meaning ‘journeying together.’ It refers to the path on which we walk together as the Church, the People of God. It also refers to Jesus who is ‘the way, the truth and the life’ (Jn 14,6), and his disciples who were originally called ‘followers of the Way’ (see: Acts 9,2; 19,9.23; 22,4; 24,14.22).

Synodality: refers to the particular style of the life and mission of the Church journeying together and gathering in assembly, summoned by the Lord Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit to proclaim the Gospel. Synodality should be expressed in the Church’s ordinary way of living and working. Synodality enables the entire People of God to walk forward together, listening to the Holy Spirit and the Word of God, to **participate** in the **mission** of the Church in the **communion** that Christ establishes between us.

Who Can Participate?

Everyone! Since we share a common dignity and vocation through Baptism all of us are called to be active participants in the life of the Church. All are invited to listen to one another in order to hear the promptings of the Holy Spirit, who comes to guide our human efforts, breath life and vitality into the Church and lead us into deeper communion for our mission in the world.

Why Is This Synod Happening? What Is It For?

The objective of the Synod is to listen to what the Holy Spirit is saying to the Church. We do so by listening to one another—especially people at the margins—and in discerning the signs of the times. The Synodal process will foster a lived experience of discernment, participation, and co-responsibility, where a diversity of gifts is brought together for the Church’s mission in the world. **The purpose of this Synod is not to produce more documents. Rather, it is intended to inspire people to dream about the Church we are called to be, to make people’s hopes flourish, to stimulate trust, to bind up wounds, to weave new and deeper relationships, to learn from one another, to build bridges, to enlighten minds, warm hearts, and restore strength to our hands for our common mission.**

Guided Questions to Help Prepare for the Listening Sessions

Our Synod Listening Session planning team has put together some preparatory questions to help us share in the listening sessions. They are not the only questions worth considering, and we do not have to respond to any or all of them.

1. What you like or don’t like about your Church.
2. What do you want from your Church? What should be a part of any Church? What is missing?
3. What keeps you coming to Church? What reason(s) make you think of leaving the Church?
4. What is the Holy Spirit leading you to do (or not do) in your own faith experience?
5. How can we deepen our relationship with Christ and each other?
6. What is the most important thing we can do?
7. With so many friends, family and neighbors not coming to Church, why do you still come?
8. How has your experience of faith in God been impacted by the Covid19 pandemic?