



Synod
2021
2023

For a synodal Church
communion | participation | mission

An Invitation to St. Anthony's Parish Community: *Parish Synodal Listening Session*

Sunday, May 22 / 12:00 Noon
Parish Center - Cafeteria

Hopefully, you have noticed the bulletin announcements over the past several weeks regarding the **Synod** called by Pope Francis.

The word **synod** is rooted in the Greek word *synodos*, meaning **assembly**.

The two Greek words that make up synod are *syn* meaning **together** and *bodos* meaning **journey**.

Pope Francis has called Catholics around the globe to participate in a synod on synodality.

“Synodality is the way of being the Church today,” said Pope Francis as he invited the world’s Catholics to enter into a process where we are called to listen to one another, and together, to listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit.

The theme for this synod is, “For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission.”

Rather than simply a meeting of bishops, Pope Francis has asked us, the People of God, to take part in the synod—to “journey together” with our brothers and sisters in Christ along the path of renewal, guided by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Father has asked that every parish in the Diocese participate in this synod in order to listen to the living voice of the entire People of God.

St. Anthony’s will conduct a synodal listening session on **Sunday, May 22 at 12 Noon** in the cafeteria as part of the synod. This session will provide an opportunity for **every member of our parish community** to share thoughts and feelings, but more importantly to discern how the Holy Spirit is guiding us in our journey together.

Our plan is to have attendees meet in the cafeteria in groups of 5 or 6 per table to offer their feedback on a variety of questions.

Each table will have a **facilitator** to lead the discussion and a **scribe** to record responses. **The process should take no more than an hour.**

Afterwards, the responses will be summarized and sent to the diocese and then the diocese will send a summary to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, who will then send a summary to Rome.

To make sure that this important meeting is most productive, we need volunteers to serve as facilitators and scribes.

The plan is to meet with the facilitators and scribes at **11:00 a.m.** in order to go over the process and be prepared for the arrival of parishioners at Noon.

If you are able to be of assistance as a facilitator or scribe, please respond to this email:

stanthonysynod@saceli.org

If you have any questions, please free to email us.

Rev. James T. Donovan, S.J.

With Much Gratitude,

Fr. Jim Donovan, S.J. and the St. Anthony’s Parish Staff.

By way of preparation for our Synod Listening Session on May 22, we ask each parishioner to begin contemplating the issues that you think are important for the church to consider:

- ◆ What experiences in our parish reflect “journeying together” most authentically?
- ◆ How can we become more aware of the voice of the Holy Spirit in our lives? Our homes? Our church?
- ◆ What fruits could come from more genuine dialogue between all members of our church?
- ◆ What are the obstacles to a deeper communication between members of a church who come from various ethnic, educational, or economic backgrounds?
- ◆ Where can we find inspiration to journey more deeply together?
- ◆ How can we best remain faithful to the mission of our church, to be a sign of hope for all in the world?
- ◆ What joys, what gifts, have you experienced through our parish?
- ◆ What difficulties have you encountered in our parish?
- ◆ Does the church need to transform itself in any way?