

Synod Bulletin Announcements

1st Sunday of Advent 27 – 28 November

WEEK 1: WHAT IS THE SYNOD ON SYNODALITY?

On the weekend of October 9-10, 2021 Pope Francis opened a **Synod on Synodality** that will continue over 2 years, until October 2023.

Definition of Synod: The word Synod comes from Greek *Syn-hodos* which means “*the same way*”. Traditionally, a synod is a gathering of bishops who come together to focus on a specific issue in the Church.

This Synod is different in that Pope Francis has issued a direct invitation to all the People of God to contribute to Church efforts toward healing – especially the poor, the marginalized, the vulnerable, and the excluded. Synodality enables the entire People of God to “*journey together*” in authentic listening and discernment on the path of becoming the Church that God calls us to be.

Visit our synod website for more at www.romancatholic.kingston.on.ca/synod

Next Week we explain the “*Purpose for the Synod on Synodality*”

2nd Sunday of Advent 4 – 5 December

WEEK 2 – PURPOSE FOR THE SYNOD ON SYNODALITY

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 peoples hopes flourish, to stimulate trust, to bind up wounds, to weave new and deeper relations to learn from one another, to build bridges, to enlighten minds, warm hearts, and restore strength to our hands for our common mission.

The journey together will call on us to renew our mentalities and our ecclesial (Church) structures to live out God’s call for the Church amid the present signs of the times. Listening to the entire People of God will help the Church to make pastoral decisions that correspond as closely as possible to God’s will.

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Next Week we explain the “*Themes of the Synod*”

3rd Sunday of Advent 11 – 12 December

WEEK 3 – THEMES OF THE SYNOD

The three synod themes are communion, participation, and mission. These themes are profoundly connected.

Communion: God gathers us together as diverse peoples of one faith, through Christ who unites us with each in the Holy Spirit. Together we are inspired by listening to the Word of God, grounded in the faith that we share. We all have a role to play in the discerning and living out God's call for His people by listening to one another and "journeying together" in our faith.

Participation: The Synod calls all of us (laity, consecrated and ordained) to be engaged in this deep and respectful listening to one another. The free and rich diversity of its members called together to pray, to listen, to analyze, to dialogue, to discern, and to offer advice on making pastoral decisions which correspond as closely as possible to God's will - all the faithful are qualified. Genuine efforts must be made to ensure the inclusion of all - the poor, the marginalized, the vulnerable, and the excluded – and those who feel they don't belong.

Mission: The Church exists to evangelize. Our mission is to witness to the love of God amid the whole human family. The Synodal process is to enable the Church to better witness the Gospel to those who live on the spiritual, social, economic, political, geographic, and existential peripheries of our world.

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Next Week we explain "*How to participate in the Synod on Synodality*"

4th Sunday of Advent 18 – 19 December

WEEK 4 – HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SYNOD OF SYNODALITY

- Complete the online SURVEY @ www.romancatholic.kingston.on.ca/synod
- Participate in a ***listening session*** at your parish, school or community setting.
- Not sure of where to start – but wish to make your voice heard – contact the [Synod Coordinator](mailto:synod@romancatholic.kingston.on.ca) for the Archdiocese of Kingston (synod@romancatholic.kingston.on.ca) and we will attempt to find alternate ways for you to make sure your voice is heard.

Online survey opens January 3rd and listening sessions begin.