

Weekly Bulletin Messages

	eBulletin Published	Parish Bulletin Published	Universal Synod Content	Other Key Initiatives/Messaging
Dec 3	Dec 5	Dec 11-12	Bishop's Announcement Video and letter	
Dec 10	Dec 13	Dec 18-19	For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission	
Dec 17	Dec 20	Dec 25-26	Companions On The Journey	
No bulletin due to Christmas/New Year				
Jan 3	Jan 4	Jan 8-9	Listening	
Jan 7	Jan 10	Jan 15-16	Speaking Out	
Jan 14	Jan 17	Jan 22-23	Celebration	
Jan 21	Jan 24	Jan 29-30	Sharing Responsibility For Our Common Mission	
Jan 28	Jan 31	Feb 5-6	Dialogue In Church And Society	ADA Launch Weekend
Feb 4	Feb 7	Feb 12-13	Ecumenism	ADA
Feb 11	Feb 14	Feb 19-20	Authority and Participation	
Feb 18	Feb 21	Feb 26-27	Discerning and Decoding	
Feb 26 -27	Feb 28	March 5-6	Forming Ourselves in Synodality	

DECEMBER 18-19, 2021

“For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission”

Each week through February, there will be another question based on the Synod. You are invited to reflect on them prayerfully – but it’s not a test! Beginning in late February, the Diocese will sponsor a series of listening sessions, allowing all of us to share our insights. The outcomes of those sharing sessions will be collated and sent to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops by June. The USCCB will incorporate the reports of all the dioceses into a final report which will go to the Vatican.

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

In responding to this question, we are invited to:

- **Recall our experiences:** What experiences of our local Church does this question call to mind?

- **Re-read these experiences in greater depth:** 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:** Where in these experiences does the voice of the Holy Spirit resound? What is the Spirit asking of us? What are the points to be confirmed, the prospects for change, the steps to be taken? Where do we register a consensus? What paths are opening up for our local Church?

For more information, see the Diocesan website <https://www.dsj.org/universal-synod/>

DECEMBER 25-26, 2021

COMPANIONS ON THE JOURNEY

In the Church and society, we are side by side on the same road. In our local Church, who are those who “walk together”? Who are those who seem further apart? How are we called to grow as companions? What groups or individuals are left on the margins? For more information, see the Diocesan website

<https://www.dsj.org/universal-synod/>

JANUARY 8-9, 2022

LISTENING

Listening is the first step, but it requires an open mind and heart, without prejudice. How is God speaking to us through voices we sometimes ignore? How are the laity listened to, especially women and young people? What facilitates or inhibits our listening? How well do we listen to those on the peripheries? How is the contribution of consecrated men and women integrated? What are some limitations in our ability to listen, especially to those with different views than our own? What space is there for the voice of minorities, especially people who experience poverty, marginalization, or social exclusion? For more information, see the Diocesan website <https://www.dsj.org/universal-synod/>

JANUARY 15-16, 2022

SPEAKING OUT

All are invited to speak with courage and parrhesia, that is, in freedom, truth, and charity. What enables or hinders speaking up courageously, candidly, and responsibly in our local Church and society? When and how do we manage to say what is important to us? How does the relationship with the local media work (not only Catholic media)? Who speaks on behalf of the Christian community, and how are they chosen? For more information, see the Diocesan website <https://www.dsj.org/universal-synod/>

JANUARY 22-23, 2022

CELEBRATION

“Walking together” is only possible if it is based on communal listening to the Word and the celebration of the Eucharist. How do prayer and liturgical celebrations inspire and guide our everyday life and mission in our community? How do they inspire the most important decisions? How do we promote the active participation of all the faithful in the liturgy? What space is given to participating in the ministries of lector and acolyte? For more information, see the Diocesan website <https://www.dsj.org/universal-synod/>

JANUARY 29-30, 2022

SHARING RESPONSIBILITY FOR OUR COMMON MISSION

Synodality is at the service of the mission of the Church, in which all members are called to participate. Since we are all missionary disciples, how is every baptized person called to participate in the mission of the Church? What hinders the baptized from being active in mission? What areas of mission are we neglecting? How does the community support its members who serve society in various ways (social and political involvement, scientific research, education, promoting social justice, protecting human rights, caring for the environment, etc.)? How does the Church help these members to live out their service to society in a missionary way? How is discernment about missionary choices made and by whom? For more information, see the Diocesan website <https://www.dsj.org/universal-synod/>

FEBRUARY 5-6, 2022

DIALOGUE IN CHURCH AND SOCIETY

Dialogue requires perseverance and patience, but it also enables mutual understanding. To what extent do diverse peoples in our community come together? How do we promote collaboration with neighboring dioceses, religious communities in the area, lay associations and movements, etc.? How are divergences of vision or conflicts and difficulties addressed? What particular issues in the Church and society do we need to pay more attention to? What experiences of dialogue and collaboration do we have with believers of other religions and those with no religious affiliation? How does the Church dialogue with and learn from different sectors of society: the spheres of politics, economics, culture, civil society, and people who live in poverty? For more information, see the Diocesan website <https://www.dsj.org/universal-synod/>

FEBRUARY 12-13, 2022

ECUMENISM

The dialogue between Christians of different confessions, united by one baptism, has a special place in the synodal journey. What relationships does our Church community have with members of other Christian traditions and denominations? What do we share, and how do we journey together? What fruits have we drawn from walking together? What are the difficulties? How can we take the next step in walking forward with each other? For more information, see the Diocesan website <https://www.dsj.org/universal-synod/>

FEBRUARY 19-20, 2022

AUTHORITY AND PARTICIPATION

A synodal church is a participatory and co-responsible Church. How does our Church community identify the goals to be pursued, the way to reach them, and the steps to be taken? How is authority or governance exercised within our local Church? How are teamwork and co-responsibility put into practice? How are evaluations conducted, and by whom? How are lay ministries and the responsibility of lay people promoted? Have we had fruitful experiences of synodality on a local level? How do synodal bodies function at the level of the local Church (Pastoral Councils in parishes and dioceses, Presbyteral Council, etc.)? How can we foster a more synodal approach in our participation and leadership? For more information, see the Diocesan website <https://www.dsj.org/universal-synod/>

FEBRUARY 26-27, 2022

DISCERNING AND DECIDING

In a synodal style, we make decisions through discernment of what the Holy Spirit is saying through our whole community. What methods and processes do we use in decision-making? How can they be improved? How do

we promote participation in decision-making within hierarchical structures? Do our decision-making methods help us to listen to the whole People of God? What is the relationship between consultation and decision-making, and how do we put these into practice? What tools and procedures do we use to promote transparency and accountability? How can we grow in communal spiritual discernment? For more information, see the Diocesan website <https://www.dsj.org/universal-synod/>

MARCH 5-6, 2022

FORMING OURSELVES IN SYNODALITY

Synodality entails receptivity to change, formation, and ongoing learning. How does our church community form people to be more capable of “walking together,” listening to one another, participating in mission, and engaging in dialogue? What formation is offered to foster discernment and the exercise of authority in a synodal way? For more information, see the Diocesan website <https://www.dsj.org/universal-synod/>