



Synod on Synodality Parish Bulletin Blurbs/Announcements

This material can be adapted to serve as social media posts and general announcements in contexts other than parishes. Please insert local details and documents indicated by the [text in brackets] in each blurb below. While Week #1 should be used first to extend the invitation from Pope Francis and introduce the Synod process, subsequent blurbs can be used in whatever order you prefer.

Week 1: Journeying Together through the Synod – Share your experience

Pope Francis has invited the Catholic faithful to take part in the preparation for the 2023 Synod of Bishops in our own Archdiocese and parishes. He has issued this invitation because he understands that our stories illustrate how faith comes alive in the concrete realities of our daily lives. Guided by the Holy Spirit and informed by Sacred Scripture and the tradition of our Church, we have this wonderful opportunity to share our stories, insights, and hopes for our Church and to consider what the Holy Spirit is saying to us through our dialogue. For more information, see this [Listening Session Participant Overview](https://www.archlou.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Listening-Session-Participant-Overview.pdf) (<https://www.archlou.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Listening-Session-Participant-Overview.pdf>.) [Share details of date, time, and location for listening session at local level and advise how participants can RSVP.]

Week 2: Journeying Together through the Synod – Invite others

We hope that the upcoming Synod listening session in our parish [or other context] will be a time of great listening, and we want to invite everyone's participation. As you plan for your attendance, think about inviting someone you know who has not been as engaged with the Church or the parish. All of our stories are sacred, and this process invites us to share our stories, insights, and hopes for the Church and to consider what the Holy Spirit is saying to us through this dialogue. For information, see the [Listening Session Participant Overview](#). [Share details of date, time, and location for listening session at local level and advise how participants can RSVP.]

Week 3: Journeying Together through the Synod – Listen to the Holy Spirit

The purpose of the upcoming listening session we are holding in our parish [or other context] is to consider what the Holy Spirit is saying to us in this time and place as we dialogue about our stories, insights, hopes, and dreams for our Church. The purpose is not problem solving, planning, data gathering, or debate. Listening to the Holy Spirit and to each other can change our attitudes, inform our understanding, and guide our behavior. Pope Francis hopes that this listening will “plant dreams, draw forth prophecies and visions, allow hope to flourish, inspire trust, bind up wounds, weave together relationships.” What a wonderful vision and opportunity for all of us! For more information about the Synod, see this [Listening Session Participant Overview](#). [Share details of date, time, and location for listening session at local level and advise how participants can RSVP.]

Week 4: Journeying Together through the Synod – Listening session process

Our Synod listening session will take about two hours and will include an opening prayer, a brief overview of the process with the full group, and dialogue in small group breakouts. Scribes will be assigned to each small group to take notes and then share a sampling of their small group insights with the full group, which will conclude the listening session. Please note that the scribes will not share identifying information about any participants in their feedback.

Our listening session convener will then share a feedback form with the Archdiocese, and the Archdiocese will submit a synthesis report reflecting major themes from all diocesan listening sessions to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops by August of 2022. We ask all participants to review in advance the [Listening Session Participant Overview](#) as well as the questions included on the Listening Session – Participant Reflection Questions/Notes [link to local document] and to bring an open heart and listening ears to our listening session. [Share details of date, time, and location for listening session at local level and advise how participants can RSVP.]

Week 5: Journeying Together through the Synod – Share your insights with our parish and Archdiocese

We invite you to consider attending a listening session (and inviting others) to share your story of journeying with the Church and to learn from the diversity of experiences of others. This process of listening during this Synod will contribute to the synodal process for the whole Church and will provide insights for our parish [or other context] and for the Archdiocese. It will stimulate reflection on different ways our parish [or other context] and Archdiocese can be intentional about deepening communion, expanding participation, and focusing on mission. Please join us as we journey together! For more information about the Synod, see this [Listening Session Participant Overview](#). [Share details of date, time, and location for listening session at local level and advise how participants can RSVP.]

Thanks to the Diocese of Trenton and the Co-Cathedral of St. Robert Bellarmine in Freehold, NJ, for inspiring some of the language for these bulletin announcements.