

This Synod poses the following fundamental questions:

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 in order to grow in our “journeying together”?

The Synodal process in St. Theresa’s Parish

Will start in January 2022 and will be completed by the end of April 2022. Over this period: bulletin items, brochures, presentations during the Mass by the presider, other presentations during Mass, displays in foyer of the church, in-person gatherings/zoom meetings, on the parish website, handouts and other means of communication will be used to spread the world of the Synod process in our parish and gather input from all.

Please join us on this unique Synod on Synodality journey of talking, listening, and sharing about our faith with each other and the Church itself in 2022.

PRAYER FOR THE SYNOD:

Adsumus Sancte Spiritus
(We stand before You, Holy Spirit.)

As we embrace this Synodal Process, this prayer invites the Holy Spirit to be at work in us so that we may be a community and a people of grace.

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather 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.



SYNOD ON SYNODALITY

Listening and Discernment in Local Churches

First Phase [October 2021 – August 2022]
in Dioceses and Bishops’ Conferences leading up to
the Assembly of Bishops in Synod in October 2023

OUR SYNOD ON SYNODALITY JOURNEY IN ST. THERESA’S PARISH

St. Theresa’s Parish
7508 – 29 Avenue NW
Edmonton, Alberta

Archdiocese of Edmonton Website:
<https://caedm.ca/synod>

Parish website:
<https://sttheresa.caedm.ca>

(**Synod** - is a Greek word (*synodos*) meaning a meeting or assembly. The two Greek words that make up synod are *syn* meaning together and *hodos* meaning way or journey)

(**Synodality** - is the path and process of the Church as communion. It is the communion of all the baptized who are listening to each other, dialoguing with each other, and praying together to hear the voice of Holy Spirit as we all seek holiness and proclaim the Gospel. Synodality involves clergy, religious and laity listening and speaking, praying, and discerning together, and placing the hopes and concerns of the People of God at the foot of the bishops, who, united with the Pope, decide matters of faith and morals in order to preserve the faith and strengthen the Church throughout the world.)

KEY WORDS FOR THE SYNODAL PROCESS:

The theme of the Synod is “For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission.” The three dimensions of the theme are **communion**, **participation**, and **mission**. These three dimensions are profoundly interrelated. They are the vital pillars of a Synodal Church. There is no hierarchy between them. Rather, each one enriches and orients the other two. There is a dynamic relationship between the three that must be articulated with all three in mind.

Communion: By his gracious will, God gathers us together as diverse peoples of one faith, through the covenant that he offers to his people. The communion we share finds its deepest roots in the love and unity of the Trinity. It is Christ who reconciles us to the Father and unites us with each

other in the Holy Spirit. Together, we are inspired by listening to the Word of God, through the living Tradition of the Church, and grounded in the *sensus fidei* that we share. We all have a role to play in discerning and living out God’s call for his people.

Participation: A call for the involvement of all who belong to the People of God – laity, consecrated and ordained – to engage in the exercise of deep and respectful listening to one another. This listening creates space for us to hear the Holy Spirit together and guides our aspirations for the Church of the Third Millennium. Participation is based on the fact that all the faithful are qualified and are called to serve one another through the gifts they have each received from the Holy Spirit. In a synodal Church the whole community, in the free and rich diversity of its members, is called together to *pray, listen, analyse, dialogue, discern and offer advice on making pastoral decisions* which correspond as closely as possible to God’s will (ICT, Syn., 67-68). Genuine efforts must be made to ensure the inclusion of those at the margins or who feel excluded.

Mission: The Church exists to evangelize. We can never be centred on ourselves. Our mission is to witness to the love of God in the midst of the whole human family. This Synodal Process has a deeply missionary dimension to it. It is intended to enable the Church to better witness to the Gospel, especially with those who live on the spiritual, social, economic, political, geographical, and existential peripheries of our world. In this way, synodality is a path by which the Church can more fruitfully fulfil her mission of evangelization in the world, as a leaven at the service of the coming of God’s kingdom.

LISTENING:

The heart of the synodal experience is listening to God through listening to one another, inspired by the Word of God. We listen to each other in order to better hear the voice of Holy Spirit speaking in our world today. This can take place over the course of one gathering, but we strongly encourage that several gatherings take place to allow for a more interactive atmosphere of sharing as people get to know each other, trust one another, and feel that they can speak more freely thus making it a truly synodal experience of journeying together. In addition to the more formal aspects of speaking and listening to one another, it is important that gatherings have informal moments as well. Pilgrimages, group activities, artistic expressions, and even coffee breaks can help to foster a sense of community through the experience of sharing life with one another.

This Synod offers us the opportunity to be with each other, to invite our family and friends back to the faith, to listen to each other’s joys and sorrows and share our hopes and dreams for our parishes.”

Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory

It is especially important that this listening process happens in a spiritual setting that supports openness in sharing as well as hearing,

Parish website:
<https://sttheresa.caedm.ca>