

ST. THERESA'S PARISH – MILL WOODS

## RE-BUILDING OUR PARISH FAITH COMMUNITY

(AFTER THE SEVERE EFFECTS OF COVID 19)

### PLEASE COME BACK AND JOIN US!

As the fall months of October and November are approaching, many of us are thinking of and planning ahead for our fall activities. Such activities as; registering and getting our children ready for school – purchasing new clothes and school supplies, registrations in various fall activities and programs, changing routines as the days become shorter, harvesting the fruits of our garden, setting up your own exercise programs, and other activities that are part of you and your family fall rituals.

**Hopefully, an activity that you will include in your and your family fall rituals will be a return to being part of the faith life and journey of St. Theresa's Parish. Attend one of our Sunday masses in person, support our faith programs, activities, and your financial support of the parish.**

We know that dealing with the challenges presented by COVID-19 and other variants has been difficult for us all. And some more than others if you are dealing with other medical issues in your life. You did what was best for yourself and your family by making the decision to stay away from Sunday masses and other faith gatherings for your own protection. We totally understand your actions and support you.

Now that more is known about the challenges of dealing with COVID-19 in our daily lives, perhaps it is time to look at and reconsider your participation in your own faith journey and that of your family members.

A good first step would be your participation in one of the Sunday masses of your choice at St. Theresa's Church. Mass times are:

**Saturday – 5:30 pm**

**Sunday – 8:30 am, 10:30 am, 12:30 pm and 6:00 pm**

Please arrive early and if you choose, you can continue to wear a mask for your peace of mind and protection.

As we move forward with this faith re-building program, other plans, programs and activities will be announced to encourage you to join us in the rebuilding of our faith community here at St. Theresa's Parish. It is our responsibility, as parishioners, to actively participate in parish life through our volunteering, serving in parish ministries, participating in faith programs and activities, and through our weekly financial contributions in support of the parish.

**So, we invite you and the members of your family to come and join us and participate in the faith life and faith journey of St. Theresa's Parish Mill Woods.**

More details of our "Re-Building of our Parish Faith Community" program will be presented in the Parish Bulletin and announced at Sunday masses.

*Parish Faith Re-Building Community Program Committee*

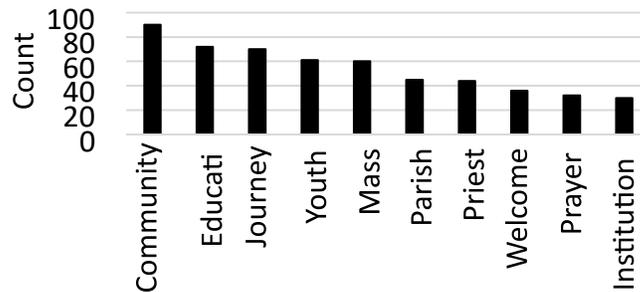


**SEPTEMBER IS STEWARDSHIP MONTH!**

# A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF EDMONTON SYNODAL REPORT

“To live a storied life is to understand that experiences shape and inform our identity. When we share stories of how we experience our faith, we open the window of our soul to others. In a sense, we make ourselves vulnerable to what we hope will become a shared experience; an opportunity of encounter with the “other.”

This is where the Holy Spirit, as animator, pours into us the inspiration to speak with courage and to listen with compassion.



1. There was a deep desire to build **community**. Whether a family, school, work, or parish community, relationships with others had a direct impact on how participants viewed their faith. Participants shared the following comment relating to how the parish community is instrumental in developing a sense of belonging.

The four identified key elements for building that sense of parish community are:

- Education
- Journey
- Youth
- Mass

2. The need for **catechesis (education)** resonated deeply for many participants. There is a deep desire to learn and grow in the faith regardless of age.
3. There is a deep desire to **journey** with the faith community, especially within a parish. From the hundreds of responses, one can gather that the perceived cliques within parishes, communities, organizations, ministries, inadvertently impose barriers that contribute to feelings of isolation, and do not fully engage the laity.
4. An overwhelming concern was expressed regarding the **youth**. What happens when the cradle Catholics are gone? Who will carry the faith forward? Young people expressed their need for action. **Catholic schools** serve in the mission of the Church. The triad of home, school, and parish was expressed as an essential relationship in the faith formation of students.
5. The role of the **Priest** is instrumental in the pastoral care of his flock. Simply tending to the sacraments and celebrating Mass is not enough. A resonating theme of pastoral care was evident in the participant feedback that challenges the role of the Priest to be relational.
6. The leadership of **women** in the church was highlighted as a **key area of concern**. Participants felt that the hierarchical structure of the institutional church required a renewed vision of how women could serve in key leadership positions.