



For a synodal Church  
 communion | participation | mission

## Introduction to the Synod Process & Schedule at St. Ann

**The Synod process will be taking place at St. Ann from February 14 through March 13.**

During that time, we will have three ways to participate – you can choose the one(s) that best suit you:

- Listening sessions (one week for each of the four questions from the diocese)
  - Each week parishioners will have three listening sessions to choose from
  - You can participate all four weeks or as many as fit your schedule
- Written survey (online and hard copy) – this will cover the same questions as the listening sessions, in an abbreviated, written form
- Interview cards – to reach out to others; all will be encouraged to take some of these cards and talk with family, friends, those who have left the Church, those to and with whom we minister, etc.

### Listening Sessions

You are invited to participate in one session each week if you are able. We have tried to set up sessions at various times each week (although there will always be one on Sunday morning), in order to accommodate a variety of schedules. Sessions will last 1½ - 2 hours, depending on the size of the small discussion groups.

	Session #	Date	Time	Location
<b>Week 1 / Question 1</b> February 14-20	Session 1	Thursday, February 17	7:30pm	Zoom
	Session 2	Saturday, February 19	10:00am	Condon Hall
	Session 3	Sunday, February 20	9:00am	Condon Hall
<b>Week 2 / Question 2</b> February 21-27	Session 1	Tuesday, February 22	7:30pm	Zoom
	Session 2	Thursday, February 24	6:30pm	Condon Hall
	Session 3	Sunday, February 27	10:00am	Condon Hall
<b>Week 3 / Question 3</b> February 28-March 6	Session 1	Thursday, March 3	7:30pm	Zoom
	Session 2	Saturday, March 5	3:00pm	Condon Hall
	Session 3	Sunday, March 6	9:00am	Condon Hall
<b>Week 4 / Question 4</b> March 7-13	Session 1	Tuesday, March 8	7:30pm	Zoom
	Session 2	Wednesday, March 9	6:30pm	Condon Hall *
	Session 3	Sunday, March 13	10:00am	Condon Hall

*\* This session will be connected to our first Lenten Soup Supper*

The listening sessions, whether virtual or in person, will use the same format. Here is an outline of what you can expect:

## Large Group Gathering

- We will begin by praying together and going over the process for the session
- Then we will break into small group of 8-10 people (depends on the size of the gathering)

## Small Groups

- Begin by reading the main question for the week and the 6 reflection questions
- 5 minutes for silent reflection
  - What is your personal experience (or lack of experience) in this area?
  - Identify your own personal stories. You will be asked to avoid second-hand information, social media info, etc.
- Share and listen
  - Each person speaks for a maximum of 3 minutes while others listen deeply
  - Tell a story of your experience in this area
- Another 5 minutes of silent reflection and listening to the Holy Spirit
  - Reflect: How has another person's perspective influenced your own?
  - Ponder: As a parish, what changes are needed to be able to walk more closely together?
  - Consider: Is the Spirit calling us to new paths at St. Ann? Nationally? Globally?
- Share and Listen
  - Each person speaks for an additional 2 minutes
  - Sharing based on the "reflect, ponder, and consider" questions above
- Discerning a Synthesis
  - Facilitator will lead a discussion to identify the key issues that have been surfaced
  - The group will identify at least one issue that can be addressed at St. Ann
  - The recorder will create a summary of the listening session (300 words or less)
- Small group will close with any prayer of gratitude

## **Questions? What Questions?**

The Diocese has synthesized questions from the Vatican for us to consider. We will focus on one question each week for the four weeks, February 14-March 13, and each question will also have six questions for reflection to go along with it. The questions are:

- How is God calling us to be a Christ-centered Church that "Journeys Together"?
- How is God calling us to be a Christ-centered Church that is a welcoming, Eucharistic community?
- How is God calling us to be a Christ-centered Church that is open to listening, dialogue, and renewal?
- How is God calling us to be a Christ-centered Church that is fully engaged in evangelization and mission?

## **What about our children and teens?**

The Synod process invites the participation of every person in the church. Our Youth Group will be undertaking their own form of discussion and reflection on their experiences in the Church, and parents will be given an opportunity to talk with their younger children about the Church. We very much want to honor and include their thoughts and ideas!

**Looking Ahead:** Next week we will send out a document with the main question for Week 1, the reflection questions that go with it, scripture quotations, and background information. This information will be available in the weekly Synod email, in the bulletin, on the Facebook page and website, and on the bulletin board in the Commons. It will be everywhere! 😊