

2021 Synod 2023

For a synodal Church

Prayer and Reflection Leading into Advent

October 23 and 24, 2021

Over the next five weeks we will prepare to come together in our parish communities to share our thoughts and feelings about the two-part question—How does this “journeying together,” which takes place today on different levels (from the local level to the universal one), allow the Church to proclaim the Gospel in accordance with the mission entrusted to Her; and what steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow as a synodal Church? Keeping in mind that synod means to “walk together,” this week, recall how the Holy Spirit has guided the Church’s journey through history and, today, calls us to be witnesses of God’s love. As you begin, visualize Jesus, the crowd, and the apostles in Luke 9:10-17. You might consider keeping a journal or discuss these questions as a family or start a small group for sharing.

October 30-31, 2021

This week, consider how we, as Church, are living a participative and inclusive ecclesial process. Do we offer everyone, especially those, who for various reasons, find themselves on the margins, the opportunity to express themselves so that they may contribute to the edification of the People of God? As you reflect on these questions, consider “what steps the Holy Spirit is inviting us to take as we continue our journey together” and pray with Luke 6:17-36.

November 6-7, 2021

Our parishes will come together during the first week of Advent to pray together and share how the Holy Spirit has spoken to us as we have asked ourselves what steps we can take to more intentionally journey with our sisters and brothers. In preparation, please take time to pray with 1 Corinthians 12:1-11. Then recognize and appreciate the wealth and the variety of the gifts and charisms that the Spirit liberally bestows for the good of our community and the benefit of the entire human family.

November 13-14, 2021

This week, pray with Acts 2:42-47 and examine how responsibility and power are lived in the Church, as well as the structures by which they are managed. Consider any distorted practices that are not rooted in the Gospel. Remember to record your thoughts in a journal.

November 20-21, 2021

Next week, our parish communities will come together to pray and discuss how the Holy Spirit has guided the Church’s journey through history and, today, calls us to be witnesses of God’s love. In preparation for our gathering, pray with Acts 15:1-12 throughout the week. Remember to gather your thoughts and bring your journal to our first synodal experience as a community.

November 27-28, 2021

Now that we have begun these conversations about walking together, let us enter Advent with renewed Faith and allow the Holy Spirit to lead us to find creative ways to continue walking together and deeply listening to one another. Form small discussion/prayer groups; spend time as a family exploring the image of Jesus, the crowd, and the apostles; reach out to family members and friends who have left the church and ask them to join you for prayer and conversation.

