



St. Mary Magdalen Parish & St. John Mission
ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SEATTLE

Dear parishioner,

The *Synod on Synodality*, a two-year long event in the life of the entire Catholic Church, was convoked by Pope Francis in October 2021. The synod, which will conclude in Rome in October 2023, is themed “*For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission.*” Describing it, Pope Francis said that the Synod:

“...is a process of spiritual discernment, of ecclesial discernment, that unfolds in adoration, in prayer and in dialogue with the word of God... That Word summons us to discernment and it brings light to that process. It guides the Synod, *preventing it from becoming a Church convention, a study group or a political gathering, a parliament, but rather a grace-filled event... guided by the Spirit.*”¹

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops describes how “this journey... is both a gift and a task”, by which “the Church will be able to learn through her experience [how best to] help her to live communion, to achieve participation, to open herself to mission.”²

At St. Mary Magdalen Parish and St. John Mission, participation in the Synodal process is taking two forms: written and verbal. Following a ‘soft launch’ on the last weekend of February, written responses will be collected from anyone who would like to contribute; listening sessions will take place during March and April. Father Olson has asked each of us in the parish to answer two basic prompts, responses to which will be collected (anonymously) and presented to our Synod Coordinators. In turn, this group will give a report to him, which he will pass along to the Archbishop. From there, the process repeats until the responses, in some form, have reached the Holy Father.³

Thus, the answers you give will be an instrumental tool in keeping not only Father Olson and the parish staff apprised of the life, hopes, and dreams of this parish family, but will also be such for Archbishop Etienne in this Archdiocese; Archbishop José Gomez at the national bishops conference; and Pope Francis at the universal level.

Bishop Edward M. Rice of Springfield-Cape Girardeau wrote this fall that “one has a choice to see [the Synod] as a burden, one more thing on the plate, or one can see it as an opportunity.” We invite you to “choose to see this as an opportunity”, and to participate in prayerful response and spiritual support.⁴

Sincerely yours in Christ our Lord,

The Synodal Coordinators of St. Mary Magdalen Parish & St. John Mission

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- 1 *Homily at the Celebration of Holy Mass for the Opening of the Synodal Path* (10 October 2021)
 - 2 *Synod on Synodality: Communion, Participation, and Mission* [USCCB Website]
 - 3 You can learn more about the global Synod on the Holy See’s website regarding it (www.synod.va).
 - 4 *What is a Synod on Synodality?* (8 November 2021)

Walking together as a Church with the Holy Spirit

The purpose of the Synod is "to plant dreams", to "journey together" following the course of the Church in the third millennium with a truly synodal mentality. Join us!

www.synod.va



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1. List three hopes/dreams you have for St. Mary Magdalen Parish-St. John Mission:

2. List three hopes/dreams you have for the Catholic Church on the universal level:
