

MEMO

TO: Pastors, All Parish and Catholic Leaders
FROM: Todd Cooper, Diocesan Coordinator for Synod
DATE: December 16, 2021
RE: Timeline for Synod Participation

Below is a general timeline for our participation in the worldwide Synod called for by Pope Francis (For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission). This timeline was outlined by the Synod Steering Committee in consultation with Archbishop Sample.

There are some key dates and phases you will want to mark on your calendars. The afternoon of Thursday, January 20, 2022, will feature a virtual workshop presentation by the Synod Steering Committee. Pastors, pastoral council chairpersons, religious superiors, apostolate directors, and Catholic leaders are invited and encouraged to attend. The essential framework as well as helpful tools and resources to simplify participation in the Synod will be provided. The virtual workshop will include important time for Q & A. The session will be recorded in case you are unable to attend live.

Prayer and adoration will form the foundation of the Synod discernment process in the Archdiocese of Portland. Discernment gatherings will take place at three levels: parish, vicariate (regional), and diocesan.

During the parish phase, pastors, with the help of pastoral council members and others, will organize discernment sessions using the framework provided on January 20. Institutions, organizations, and other groups are also invited to organize discernment sessions during this phase. This would include, but is not limited to, religious communities, apostolates, schools, social service agencies and people of other faiths who are interested in the good of the Catholic Church. During this phase, all are invited to participate in the Synod.

The vicariate (or regional) discernment sessions will be organized by Area Vicars and Archdiocesan Pastoral Council representatives with the assistance of the Steering Committee. These regional discernment sessions will include only selected representatives.

The diocesan discernment period will be guided by Archbishop Sample and involve the Presbyteral (Priests) Council, the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council, and selected leaders.

Below is a general outline of the timeline for Synod participation. More details about Synod participation and the workshop will be sent in January.



Special Ministries of the Archbishop

Synod Timeline

Now until August 15, 2022 – Prayer Phase

January 20, 2022 (afternoon) – Virtual Orientation Workshop

February and March 2022 – Parish (and other groups) Participation Phase

April and May 2022 – Vicariate (regional) Participation Phase

June 2022 – Archdiocesan Discernment Phase

July 2022 – Preparation of Report & Submission to U.S. Bishops

August 15, 2022 – Conclusion of Local Participation in the Synod

For additional Synod information and resources, please visit the archdiocesan [Synod webpage](#).

If you have any questions at this time or resources you wish to share, please contact me at:

tcooper@archdpdx.org or 503-233-8386. Thank you!

Blessings on all your preparations for the coming of the Lord, Jesus, this Christmas.