



## *a positive experience of prayer, listening, and community*

Pope Francis has called for a Synod of bishops from around the world to gather in 2023 in order to address the topic of *synodality*.

For many of us, *synod* is a new word. It comes from the Greek and refers to *being on the road together*. In its secular use, it referred to a public town meeting. In the Eastern Catholic Churches and Orthodox Church, synod is a common name for their meetings, while in the West we are more familiar with the term *council* (such as the Second Vatican Council, a Diocesan Pastoral Council, a parish Finance Council).

It may sound funny to have a synod about synodality, like having "a meeting about meetings." But the synod is about the Holy Spirit leading us into a new understanding of how the Church will listen and then follow the Holy Spirit.

Applying that understanding in a broader sense, *synodality* describes a way of making decisions – obtaining information and listening to everyone involved, and communicating that to leaders at every level. While we may prefer to imagine the Church as a perfect society, in fact we are unfinished, we make mistakes, and we are sinful as we move toward the Second Coming of Christ. Therefore, we must listen and learn from one another, because no one knows everything.

**All people of the Diocese are invited to participate in one of the gatherings with the purpose of praying and listening to one another as a means to hearing what the Holy Spirit is saying.** There will be some introductory comments; then a time of prayer and reflection to prepare our hearts to listen. In small groups participants will share their reflections on three topics, followed by a period to prepare a report of the fruits of their collective listening and prayer. All participants will have the opportunity to submit personal comments if they wish.

Please register to participate in one of the synodal gatherings at [www.diokzoo.org/synod](http://www.diokzoo.org/synod). When you register you will receive a link to obtain and print some materials that will help you to prepare. You may invite others who are interested, including people who don't belong to the Catholic Church.

In the end, the most important question in a synodal process is: *What is the Holy Spirit saying?* Throughout the Diocese of Kalamazoo we will gather to ask questions and listen for the Holy Spirit's response. Our responses flow primarily from our prayer, which of course is also influenced by our personal experience.

We don't know what will happen in the end, or what the result will be . . . because we haven't done it yet. There are no predetermined answers. We can only pray and listen.

## SCHEDULE of SYNOD GATHERINGS (rev. Jan 2)

**English**      **On site gatherings are In Person only with no zoom option.**  
**Zoom gatherings are online only, with no in person option.**

Sun	Jan 9	Dowagiac – Holy Maternity of Mary 210 N. Front Street, Dowagiac, MI (1-3 pm)	Sat	Feb 5	Zoom online (10-noon)
Thrs	Jan 13	St. Joseph - St. Joseph Parish 211 Church Street, St. Joseph, MI (6-8 pm)	Sun	Feb 6	(snow) Wayland St. Therese of Lisieux Parish 128 Cedar Street, Wayland, MI (1-3 pm)
Sat	Jan 15	Portage – St. Catherine of Siena 1150 W. Centre Ave, Portage, MI (10-noon)	Mon	Feb 7	(snow) Niles – St. Mark Parish 3 North 19 <sup>th</sup> Street, Niles, MI (6-8 pm)
Mon	Jan 17	Three Rivers-Immaculate Conception 645 S. Douglas, Three Rivers, MI (6-8 pm)	Thrs	Feb 10	Portage – St. Catherine of Siena 1150 W. Centre Ave, Portage, MI (6-8 pm)
Tues	Jan 18	Gun Lake – SS. Cyril & Methodius 159 131 <sup>st</sup> Ave, Wayland, MI (6-8 pm)	Sat	Feb 12	(snow) Coldwater – St. Charles Borromeo Parish 150 Taylor Street, Coldwater, MI (10-noon)
Wed	Jan 19	Bridgman-Our Lady Queen of Peace 3903 Lake Street, Bridgman, MI (6-8 pm)	Wed	Feb 16	Zoom online (6-8 pm)
Sat	Jan 22	Coldwater – St. Charles Borromeo 150 Taylor Street, Coldwater, MI (10-noon)	Fri	Feb 18	Zoom online (2-4 pm)
Mon	Jan 24	(snow) Three Rivers Immaculate Conception Parish 645 S. Douglas, Three Rivers, MI (6-8pm)	Sat	Feb 19	(snow) Portage – St. Catherine of Siena Parish 1150 W. Centre Ave, Portage, MI (10-noon)
Wed	Jan 26	Wayland – St. Therese of Lisieux 128 Cedar Street, Wayland, MI (6-8pm)			
Thrs	Jan 27	Battle Creek – St. Jerome 229 Collier Ave, Battle Creek, MI (6-8 pm)			
Mon	Jan 31	Niles – St. Mark Parish 3 North 19 <sup>th</sup> Street, Niles, MI (6-8 pm)			

**weeknights** = 6-8 pm

**Saturdays** = 10-12 noon

**snow** = new date only if the original date is cancelled

**When you register, you will receive links for printed materials and the link for the online Zoom meetings**

**Note: this revised schedule differs from what was published in the *Southwest Michigan Catholic***



## HORARIO de REUNIONES SINODALES (rev. 2 enero)

**Español**      *(Add zoom meetings when they are set.)*  
**On site gatherings are In Person only with no zoom option.**  
**Zoom gatherings are online only, with no in person option.**

- mar    11 ene Kalamazoo – St. Joseph Parish (7-9 pm)  
936 Lake Street, Kalamazoo, MI
- juev   20 ene Hartford - Immaculate Conception Parish (6-8 pm)  
63559 60<sup>th</sup> Ave, Hartford, MI
- mar    25 ene Berrien Springs – St. Gabriel Parish (6-8 pm)  
509 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Buchanan, MI
- mier   26 ene South Haven – St. Basil Parish (6-8 pm)  
513 Monroe Blvd., South Haven
- sáb    29 ene (nieve) Hartford - Immaculate Conception (10-noon)  
63559 60<sup>th</sup> Ave, Hartford, MI
- lun    31 ene Battle Creek - St. Jerome Parish (6-8 pm)  
229 Collier Ave, Battle Creek, MI
- mier   2 feb    (nieve) Pearl – San Felipe de Jesús (6-8 pm)  
5586 117<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Fennville, MI
- sáb    5 feb    Sturgis – Holy Angels Parish (10-noon)  
402 S. Nottawa, Sturgis, MI
- mar    8 feb    (nieve) Kalamazoo - St. Joseph (6-8 pm)  
936 Lake Street, Kalamazoo, MI
- sáb    19 feb (nieve) Sturgis – Holy Angels Parish (10-noon)  
402 S. Nottawa, Sturgis, MI
- lun    21 feb (nieve) Battle Creek - St. Jerome (10-noon)  
229 Collier Ave, Battle Creek, MI

**entre semana** = 6-8 pm

**los sábados** = 10-12 am

**nieve** = otra fecha solamente si se canceló la primera fecha

**Cuando se registre, recibirá el enlace de los materiales publicados y el enlace para las reuniones virtuales por Zoom.**

**Fechas para las reuniones virtuales serán publicadas pronto.**

