

Synod

2027



We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts;
teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.

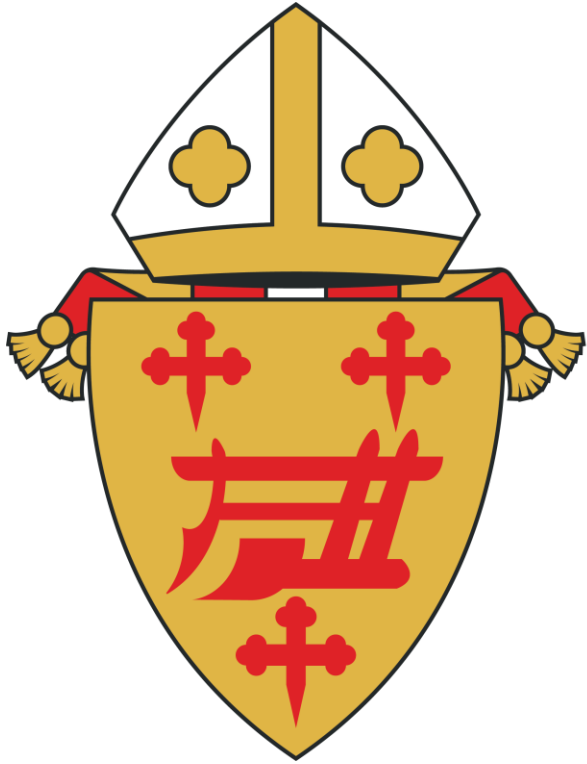
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path
nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together
to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.

All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever.

Amen.





Synod

2027

Announcement

"After much prayer and consultation on this question, I have decided that we will conduct an archdiocesan synod over the next two years.

Inspired by the story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus, encouraged by Pope Leo's efforts to create a more synodal Church, and considering the more than fifty years that have passed since our last synod was held,

Synod 2027 will offer our local Church a blessed opportunity to recognize Christ in our midst and respond enthusiastically to His call."

~ Archbishop Robert G. Casey, Jan. 24, 2026

Questions

What is a diocesan synod?

- An engagement of the whole archdiocese to consider what the Holy Spirit is asking of our local Church at this moment
- A period of prayer and listening to the Holy Spirit and to one another
- Culminates in a General Assembly with representatives of the clergy, vowed religious, and laity to assist the local bishop

To be synodal is to journey together

Questions

Why is our archdiocese holding a synod now?

- It is a priority of Pope Leo XIV that the Church be intentionally synodal so that pastoral plans are made in a spirit of prayerful discernment
- Inform Archbishop Casey as he comes to know our archdiocese more intimately and establishes priorities for the future
- Our last archdiocesan synod was soon after Vatican II and much has changed in our Church and in our society since then. We are overdue!

Questions

What do we hope to accomplish?

- Provide Archbishop Casey with perspective on the needs of our local Church and prayerful input on the questions to be considered
- Help set in place the foundations of Beacons of Light, specifically the six guiding principles, as a way of life in our archdiocese
- Grow in holiness, both individually and collectively, and "discover anew the joy of our discipleship"

Questions

Who is leading Synod 2027?

- Archbishop Robert G. Casey – Executive Leadership
- Father Jan K. Schmidt – Archbishop's Delegate for Synod 2027
- Synod 2027 Preparatory Commission (20) – Guidance and Feedback
 - Comprised of 20 members representative of the lay, clerical, and consecrated religious makeup of the archdiocese
- Synod 2027 Secretariat (8) – Planning and Execution
 - Comprised of 7 archdiocesan employees and 1 consultant

Questions

How will Synod 2027 unfold?

- Synod 2027 will proceed in five "movements" of about six months each
- We are presently in the first of those movements

HOW WILL THE SYNOD PROCEED?

Synod 2027 will
proceed in five
movements:

2026

FIRST HALF OF 2026

Formation and Preparation

A time for orienting everyone – clergy, vowed religious, and laity – to the meaning, purpose, and scope of **Synod 2027**.

SECOND HALF OF 2026

Initial Synodal Conversations

These will consist of multiple small sessions, conducted in prayer and conversations in the Holy Spirit, about local needs, opportunities, and issues. This will be everyone's opportunity to participate.



2027

HOW WILL THE SYNOD PROCEED?

Synod 2027 will
proceed in five
movements:



FIRST HALF OF 2027

Synthesis, Prayer, and Preparation

This time period will be dedicated to prayerful distillation of themes and issues to be treated during the General Assembly, as well as logistical preparation for the Assembly. Delegates will be chosen and prepared to appropriately and knowledgeably represent their constituents.

SECOND HALF OF 2027

General Assembly

A two to two-and-a-half-day gathering for prayer, listening and discernment by delegates from each Family of Parishes and other institutions across the archdiocese, resulting in the recommendation of pastoral priorities to the archbishop.

HOW WILL THE SYNOD PROCEED?

Synod 2027 will
proceed in five
movements:

2028

FIRST HALF OF 2028 **Implementation**

Following the General Assembly, Archbishop Casey will discern priorities and next steps for implementation.



Catholicaoc.org/Synod2027

Listening Sessions

Overview:

- General: 8 sessions placed throughout the archdiocese
- Cohorts: 50 sessions
 - Priests, seminarians, deacons, religious orders
 - Hispanics, Vietnamese, Africans, African Americans, Koreans
 - Young adults, Parents of school-age children, high school youth, college students
 - Disengaged, inactive Catholics, LGBTQ
 - Parish staff, Pastoral Center staff
- Sept 5 - Nov 16, 2026 – Limit of one session per participant

Listening Sessions

What's included?

- Prayer and discernment of goals and priorities for the local Church
- Ideas and recommendations for how to faithfully live and share the apostolic mission of the Church

What's not included?

- Points of doctrine or dogma of the universal Church
- Any practices or disciplines beyond the authority of the local bishop

SYNOD 2027

Listening Sessions

Primary Value:

People with differing perspectives
together
listening to the Holy Spirit
and to one another

Communications

Objectives:

Accounting for all constituent audiences and the education/information each will need, communication will be designed to:

- Build broad awareness and understanding of both synodality and Synod 2027 – including purpose, process, and ways to get involved.
- Provide digital formation opportunities for delegates to the synod General Assembly and other interested parties.
- Create awareness of progress during every phase of the synod, including the conclusions and next steps resulting from the General Assembly.

Communications

Process:

Selectively utilize resources and channels as appropriate in the areas of print and digital storytelling to create a "drumbeat" of regular information. These channels include:

- Synod 2027 website – catholicaoc.org/Synod2027
- *The Catholic Telegraph* – articles (print and digital) and ads
- Video – especially of Abp Casey and for formation webinars
- Digital Newsletters – *The Ember*, Beacons of Light, other
- Social Media – archdiocese and parishes

Communications

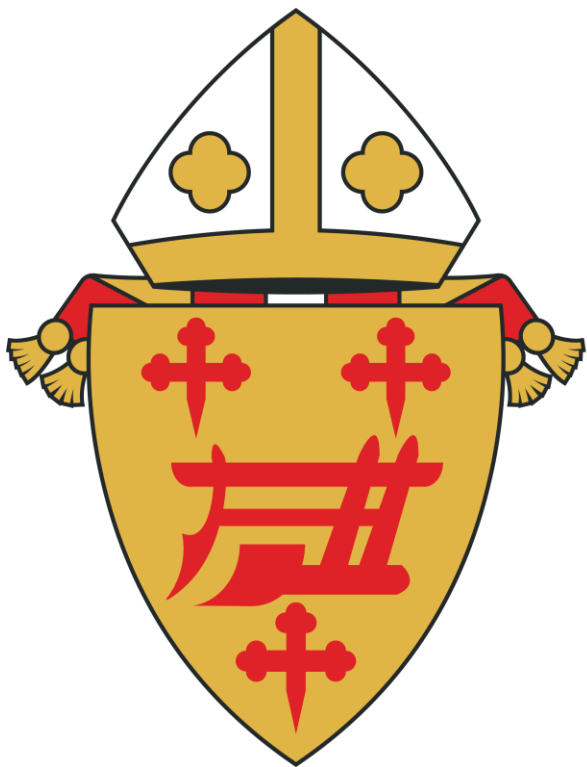
Priorities:

The "drumbeat" will both preview and cover the key junctures:

- June 19, 2027: Evening Prayer for the convocation of Synod 2027
- Formation on synodality, diocesan synods, other FAQs
- Disciple Maker Index (DMI) preview and promotion
- Schedule of/how to join into Conversations in the Spirit
- Archbishop Casey's chosen questions to be studied and addressed
- How delegates to the General Assembly will be chosen
- A preview of the upcoming General Assembly
- Priorities and next steps resulting from the General Assembly

How You Can Help

- **Pray** that Synod 2027 bears great fruit in our local Church and in our communities
- **Join** Archbishop Casey in Evening Prayer for the opening convocation of Synod 2027
 - Friday, June 19, 7:00 PM at St. Francis of Assisi, Centerville
- **Promote** and **Participate** in the Listening Sessions:
 - Registration page will be up on or about July 1
 - Facilitators and Table Hosts to be trained this August



Synod

2 0 2 7