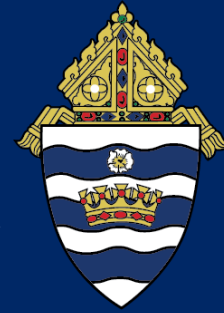


— THE ROMAN CATHOLIC —  
ARCHDIOCESE OF ATLANTA



# For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission

Adapted for individuals with developmental disabilities

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Synod  
2021  
2023

For a synodal Church  
communion | participation | mission

## Rules for our conversation are like prayers:

- P – PRAY and PONDER before and after you speak.
- R – Take RESPONSIBILITY for your own thoughts and feelings.
- A – ALLOW others to speak and to share.
- Y – YOU – Be attentive to your own thoughts and feelings.
- E – Use EMPATHETIC listening.
- R – RESPECT every person as Jesus taught us:  
Love one another.

# Materials for participation

- Computer or phone
- Paper
- Pencil, pen, or crayon
- Scissors
- Glue
- Pictures
- Candle
- Bible



# Prayer to the Holy Spirit

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.



## *Prayer to the Holy Spirit*



We stand before You,



Holy Spirit,



as we gather together



in



You.



Holy Spirit,



guide us,



and come



Into my head,



my home,



and my heart;



Teach us



the way we must go



and how



to find it.



We are weak



and sinful;





Stop us from



making bad choices.



Do not let ignorance lead us the wrong way



or influence



our actions.



Let us find



in



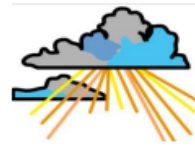
You



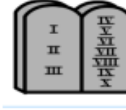
our unity so







We can journey together to heaven and



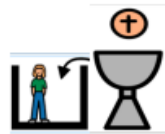
Not forget the way of truth and what is right.



All this we ask of You,



who we see at work in every place and time,



in the communion of the Father and the Son,



Adapted Prayer to the Holy Spirit  
For Individuals with developmental disabilities  
Archdiocese of Atlanta, January 2022



forever and ever.



Amen.

# What is a Synod?

We gather together to listen, talk, pray, and decide together how to act so that others can get to know Jesus.



This gathering is called a Synod.

# Matthew 18:20



“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” (Mt 18:20)

How can we share Jesus with others?

# The Good News

Pope Francis has asked us to come together as Church to help spread the good news of Jesus.

- Where is the story of Jesus found?



# The Gospel

The story of Jesus is found in the bible.

There are many books in the bible but the four gospels from Matthew, Mark, Luke and John tell us about Jesus' life here on earth.

We read about his birth, his ministry (or work with others), how he died, and his return to heaven or the resurrection.

Think about the life of Jesus.

# Question 1: Communion

- Think of something that makes you happy (brings joy) when you go to church or are together with your church family.
- Think of something that made you sad or angry at church or when you were with your church family.
- Did you ever hear God telling you something at church?
- Did someone act in a way that reminded you of God at church?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Question 1

Draw a picture or use a photo from the next page that describes what makes you happy when you go to church or are with your church family.





# Question 1

Draw a picture or use a photo from the next page that describes what makes you sad or angry when you go to church or are with your church family.



# Question 2: Participation

- Do you participate in activities at Church? If so, what?
- Are there other activities you would like to try?
- Have you gone to a friend's church? Did they have an activity that you want your parish to do or have?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Question 2

Draw a picture or use a photo from the next page that describes what you like to do at church.  
Include something you want to try to do.



# Question 3: Mission

- Do you like going to Sunday Mass? If so why, if not, why not.
- Do you listen to the bible readings at Mass? Does the priest help you to understand the readings?
- What does “the Eucharist” mean to you?
- Does going to Mass give you energy for your week to be a good follower of Jesus? Did you hear Jesus ask you to do something to help the church?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Question 3

Draw a picture or use a photo from the next page that describes what "eucharist" means to you.



Go to Mass



Sing in choir



Lector



Musician

Altar server

Bible study

Priest



Knights of Peter Claver

Attend Catholic School

Nun

Kitchen help

Bell ringer

Baptism



Pray

Christmas program

Eucharist

Knights of Columbus

Confirmation

Praise and Worship

Nursery worker



Attend a retreat

Eucharistic Minister

Parish family

Life Teen

Go...

What is one thing the church can do to help us?

What is one thing that we each can do to help our church?

...in peace to love and serve the Lord!!!

# Love Is Our First Language





For additional information please contact:  
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References:

[Synod - Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Atlanta | Atlanta, GA \(archatl.com\)](https://www.archatl.com)

Made with: [Boardmaker 7 Standard - Tobii Dynavox Global](#)

[Google Images](#)

# Additional worksheets

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Question 1

What makes you happy at church? What makes you sad at church?



or



\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



I will



I will not

