

**Prayer for the Synod
Diocese of Joliet**

OPENING PRAYER

Leader: The theme of the Synod is “Journeying Together in Synodality”. We are called by Baptism to deepen our vision of a Church for today, building relationships with all people for the sake of building up the Church relevant to the third millennium. In these months, we will pray together, listen and dialogue better and have our hearts and energy renewed as we walk with God and follow God’s desire for us. Let us pray together for open hearts and join our desires to be a living Church in today’s world.

All: The Prayer of the Synod: Adsumus Sancte Spiritus

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.

Leader: As we begin this Synodal journey together as the People of God, the Church, we ask for God’s loving guidance and presence of the Holy Spirit as we pray:

For the Church. That we may journey as companions, side by side with one another on the same road. We pray to the Lord. **R/. Lord, hear our prayer.**

For listening ears. That our hearts and minds be open to listening to others without prejudice. We pray to the Lord. **R/. Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the gift of speaking out. That we be encouraged in this Synod journey to speak with courage and compassion integrating freedom, truth, and love. We pray to the Lord. **R/. Lord, hear our prayer.**

For a Church that celebrates. That our journey together in the coming months will be based on listening together to the Word of God and the celebration of the Eucharist in the communion of the People of God. We pray to the Lord. **R/. Lord, hear our prayer.**

For our participation in the Mission of Christ. That through our Synodal journey together, we may grow in our shared responsibility of the mission that is entrusted to us. We pray to the Lord. **R/. Lord, hear our prayer.**

For true dialogue in the Church and in Society. That through a path of perseverance, patience, and mutual understanding, we may be attentive to the experience of persons and peoples. We pray to the Lord. **R/. Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the unity of Christians. That dialogue between Christians of different denominations, united by one Baptism, may radiate with new brightness on this Synodal journey. We pray to the Lord. **R/. Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the exercise of authority and participation in the People of God. That the Synodal roots of the Church will bear fruit in new ways of being at the service of one another at all levels of the Body of Christ. We pray to the Lord. **R/. Lord, hear our prayer.**

For our discernment to be led by the Holy Spirit. That all decisions made on this Synodal path may be discerned through a consensus that flows from our common obedience to the Holy Spirit. We pray to the Lord. **R/. Lord, hear our prayer.**

For a spirituality of journeying together. That we may be formed as disciples of Christ, as families, as communities, and as human beings, through our experience of this Synodal journey. We pray to the Lord. **R/. Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader:

Gracious and loving God, we offer you our prayers and our desire to serve your Church anew in this time and in this place. May our prayers speak the desire of our hearts to be your disciples and to minister to all whom you love, your people, our Church and our world. We ask this in the name of Jesus who has called us to this service. AMEN

CLOSING PRAYER

Leader: **As a sign of our unity and commitment to build our Church, let us pray together the prayer that Jesus gave us as his disciples: Our Father ...**

All: God our Father, you have a plan for each of us and for your Church. You hold out to us a future full of hope. Give us the wisdom of your Spirit so that we can see the shape of your plan in the gifts you have given us and in the circumstances of our time. Give us the freedom of your Spirit to seek you with all our hearts and unite us to journey together as your living Church here on earth. We ask this in the name of Jesus who lives and reigns with you and the Spirit now and forever. AMEN