



January 14, 2022
Friday of the First Week of Ordinary Time

Dear Parishioners:

I hope this note finds you well!

First off, here is a reminder of our chance to participate in a world-wide listening process! You may recall that in October, the Church launched a process leading to a Synod (Gathering) in Rome during 2023. Listening sessions have begun throughout the Diocese and here is your chance to mark your calendars for Sunday, January 23 (1pm) or Monday, January 24 (7pm). Marie Hirsch, a parishioner and retired staff member of the Diocesan Pastoral Planning Office and I will be hosting our parish's Synod Listening Sessions. All are invited to participate in a Listening Session: parishioners, non-parishioners, teens, young adults, parents of children in the school or PSR, those who are missing who may have left the parish during the pandemic or for other reasons should feel welcome to come. We want to reach out to as many people as possible! As it is in the church, we encourage you to wear facial coverings whenever you are going to be in close proximity to others. Even so, I know not everyone is comfortable gathering in-person at this point, yet because these sessions are based on small group discussions, it is difficult to offer a hybrid-type session where some people are in-person and others participate virtually. It has been my experience over nearly two years that discussions like this works best when everyone is either all virtual or all in-person. Since we began our preparations for our sessions, the Diocese has extended its deadline for parishes to complete their own sessions by two months, so we may schedule another session before the end of March. If you are interested perhaps in a later session, or one offered completely virtual, would you kindly call or email the Parish Office and let us know? You can respond to this email or call 440.238.5555. If you already have, we have your name. A record of your interest will help us in our planning.

Lastly, as I already conclude this month's email, I offer my deep appreciation for the various ways our community came together for our celebration of Christmas! Whether you joined us on live-stream or in-person, it was really nice to have so many folks back together again. We had around 1,170 people participate in on-campus liturgies (much higher than Christmas 2020's 454), with just over 3,800 joining on the live-stream of the 4pm Christmas Eve Mass. Everyone's prayerful presence, signing, instrumentation, and financial support lent themselves to a wonderful celebration. I even had the opportunity to meet some guests from out-of-town who joined us for liturgies during this time. Thank you for all you do, always, for the good of others, our community, and to better ourselves as disciples of Jesus!

Here's wishing you the best in 2022...

St. Joseph, pray for us! And may the Lord bless and keep us...
~Fr. Joe