

## Questions for Reflection and Sharing

What connections or new insights did you gain from the readings?

How do you listen to the Lord personally in prayer? How does our Family of Parishes listen to the Lord as we discern our future together?

What words or phrases spoke to you most powerfully in light of the call to form our Family of Parishes as a community of missionary disciples?

## Intercessions

For what or for whom should we pray?

## Lord's Prayer

### Closing Prayer

Mary, Mother of the Church and our Mother,  
Present our prayer of thanksgiving to your Son.  
Beg from Him the graces we need to be faithful disciples  
who follow Him with enthusiasm and joy.  
May our witness to the love of God bear fruit  
in our archdiocese, parishes, homes and hearts.  
Teach us to be God's joyful witnesses,  
to radiate Christ in all we do,  
so that all people might know, love and follow your Son  
through this life and into the next. Amen.



## Opening Prayer

Let us pray.

(Pause for silent prayer)

Grant, we pray, almighty God,  
that your Church may always remain that holy people,  
formed as one by the unity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
which manifest to the world  
the Sacrament of your holiness and unity  
and leads it to the perfection of your charity.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, forever and ever. Amen.

## Reading from Sacred Scripture

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke

Jesus took Peter, John, and James and went up the mountain to pray. While he was praying his face changed in appearance and his clothing became dazzling white. And behold, two men were conversing with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his exodus that he was going to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions had been overcome by sleep, but becoming fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As they were about to part from him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good that we are here; let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." But he did not know what he was saying. While he was still speaking, a cloud came and cast a shadow over them, and they became frightened when they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my chosen Son; listen to him." After the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. They fell silent and did not at that time tell anyone what they had seen.

(Luke 9:28b-36 Second Sunday of Lent)

## From For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission

There is a close link between *synaxis* and *synodos*, between the Eucharistic assembly and the synodal assembly. In both cases, albeit in different forms, Jesus' promise to be present where two or three are gathered in His name is fulfilled (cf. Mt 18: 20). Synodal assemblies are events that celebrate the union of Christ with His Church through the action of the Spirit. It is the Spirit who ensures the unity of the ecclesial body of Christ in the Eucharistic assembly as well as in the synodal assembly. The liturgy is a listening to the Word of God and a response to His covenantal initiative. Similarly, the synodal assembly is a listening to this same Word, which resounds as much in the signs of the times as in the hearts of the faithful, and also a response of the assembly that is discerning God's will in order to put it into practice. (27)