



DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT
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Synod 2014 Celebration Mass Frequently Asked Questions – (FAQ) Updated – September 1, 2015

This will be the final FAQ update for the Synod Mass.

Important things to remember:

- 1. Everyone who enters Webster Arena must have a ticket in hand. This is due to Arena and Fire Marshall rules in order to get a firm capacity count. That means that those who forget or lose their tickets will NOT be able to enter.**
- 2. Buses are asked to drive directly to the closest surface parking lot for the Arena. We will not be offloading buses in the circular drive.**
- 3. There will be golf carts available to assist those who need help from the buses to the Arena doors.**
- 4. If you find that you have extra tickets – we ask that you return them to the Synod Office as soon as possible prior to September 19, in order that they might be distributed to parishes that are requesting additional tickets.**
- 5. There will also be a standby ticket table for those who arrive at the Arena with extra tickets. We ask you to drop them off so that they might be used by “walk-ups” on the day of the event.**
- 6. Our foremost goal on September 19 is to celebrate all that we are as a Diocese and all that is possible in the coming years.**
- 7. Patience is a virtue!**



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Schedule of Events –

September 11 through September 18 – Novena to the Holy Spirit – St. Augustine Cathedral – 7:00-9:00 pm

September 19 –

6:30 am – Synod Mass Volunteers report to Webster Bank Arena

7:30 am – Doors open at Webster Bank Arena for arriving guests

7:30 am - Morning Prayer at St. Augustine Cathedral

7:30 am – 8:45 am – Buses arrive at Webster Bank Arena

9:00 am – Cathedral Procession to Webster Bank Arena begins

9:00 am – Festival of Joy – Music and Prayer begins at Webster Bank Arena

10:00 am – Bishop Caggiano arrives at Webster Bank Arena with statue of Our Lady – processes to the Altar

10:15 am – Liturgical Procession begins

11:00 am – Mass begins

1:00 pm – Mass concludes

When and where is the Celebration Mass of Synod 2014?

The Celebration Mass of the 2014 Synod of the Diocese of Bridgeport will take place on Saturday, September 19, 2015 at Webster Bank Arena in Bridgeport, CT. More than 8,500 faithful of Fairfield County will gather to celebrate the beginning of a new era in the Diocese of Bridgeport. During the Mass, Bishop Caggiano will lay out the roadmap for the coming years; we will share the Eucharist together, and celebrate who we are as a Diocese in all our extraordinary strength and diversity.

What is the Synod?

The Synod has been a year-long planning and visioning process, led by Bishop Caggiano, to discern a roadmap for strengthening, revitalizing and moving our parishes, schools, communities and Diocese forward with true Catholic identity and a common mission.

Who has been involved in the Synod?

More than 350 people representing our parishes, schools, Diocesan Curia, ecclesial communities, youth and young adults, priests, deacons, and religious, were selected as Delegates.



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What is the schedule for September 19, 2015?

Doors to the Webster Bank Arena will open at 7:30 am. Whether you are arriving on school or parish-coordinated buses, by private automobile, or by Metro-North trains, we are strongly encouraging everyone to plan on arriving in time for the Festival of Joy (song and prayer) that will begin at 9:00 am and will include music, prayer and faith testimonials. Mass will begin at 11:00 am, with the entrance liturgical procession for the Mass beginning at 10:15am.

Wait a minute, if Mass isn't until 11:00 am, why are the doors open so early?

We can't have 8,500 people arriving all at once, can we? We will be working to coordinate a schedule of arrival of buses so that attendees can be at the Arena by 9:00 am in order to enjoy the music and be in a prayerful state of mind prior to Mass.

Can you explain the processions to me?

There are actually two different major processions on Saturday, September 19. One will be the public procession from St. Augustine Cathedral to Webster Bank Arena that will depart around 9am, after morning prayer at the Cathedral. This procession is open to youth and others who wish to walk with Bishop Caggiano the 1.3 miles from the Cathedral to the Arena. The other will be the liturgical procession inside the Arena prior to the Mass. The liturgical procession will include our priests, deacons and seminarians, our Synod Delegates, and several other Diocesan-wide groups, but the general public will not participate in this process.

What if I get hungry or thirsty?

We are happy to report, that while the Arena regulations do not allow attendees to bring in food or drink, the concession stands will be open to provide healthy breakfast and snack foods, before closing at 10:00 am (one hour before the beginning of Mass). There will be spots available to purchase bottled water throughout the morning.

What will parking be like?

1. For those arriving on parish- or school-coordinated buses – those buses will be directed to the largest surface parking lot for disembarkation. We are asking that the buses **NOT** pull into the circular drive in front of the Arena to help avoid congestion by the entrance.
2. There will be golf carts driven by volunteers available to aid those who need assistance in navigating the distance from the parking lot to the Arena doors.
3. One suggestion might be to put your parish or school name on a placard in the front window of the bus so that as registrants leave Mass, they will more easily spot the bus on which they arrived.



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4. We strongly encourage a bus captain who will have a list of all riders to check after Mass so that no one gets left behind at the Arena. Some parishes and schools are also designating an individual to help promote the parish or school's sense of community by leading prayer or song on the drive. Other buses may prefer gentle quiet!
5. As a reminder - each parish and school will be responsible for paying for the cost of any bus ordered through the Synod office. The Diocese has advanced the money to pay for the buses. An invoice will be generated the week after the Synod Mass. We would ask your kind attention to paying this invoice as soon as you can once it is received.
6. There will be parking available for private automobiles at the Arena. We continue to encourage those arriving by car to plan on getting there early and to carpool, if possible. Our major concern continues to be potential backups onto I-95 causing delays in arriving at the Arena. Working with the Bridgeport Police Department, we are doing all that we can to avoid major traffic tie-ups and back-ups on the freeways and roads around the Arena.

I have difficulty walking – will there be assistance at the Arena?

We will have assistance to those with difficulty walking, both outside the Arena in the parking lots, and inside the Arena. The Order of Malta will have volunteers available inside the arena to assist you to your seat.

I'm not able to get out of my home due to health reasons – will there be an opportunity for me to see the Mass?

The Mass will be live-streamed at www.bridgeportdiocese.com beginning at 11:00 am on Saturday, September 19. Thanks to the hard work of the Diocesan Communications Office with the assistance of the Arena staff, Fairfield University, and the Archdiocese of Hartford's television production team, the Mass will be televised on Sunday, September 20 on the following channels:

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|--------------------------|---------------------|
| WCCT-TV - Channel 20 | 10:30AM – 12:30 PM |
| Cablevision – Channel 84 | 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM |

May I bring my young child with me?

It is up to each parent to decide that for themselves. Please recognize that this will be a fairly long day and there may not be many locations within the Arena to calm restless children.

I would like to help with the event. Is there a way that I can volunteer?

Thank you, yes. An event such as this requires hundreds of volunteers to ensure that attendees have a good experience. We will have need for hospitality volunteers and volunteers to assist in escorting our clergy in the distribution of Holy Communion. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact, synod@diobpt.org. Volunteers must be at least 18 years of age and meet Safe Environment requirements.