

I'd like to address the screens and their usage.

There has been much talk, both good and bad, about the two screens in the sanctuary. For some, it has been a source of much frustration while others find them very helpful and positive. I would like to take this time to explain my vision for the use of the screens for our family at St. Ann.

Going forward, we will be sure to inform and involve the parish for new initiatives so each member of our family has the opportunity to understand where we are going, so that we can walk together. And just as in any family, we may not agree at all times, but with love and understanding, and the opportunity to give feedback, we will, hopefully, move ahead **THOUGHTFULLY** with our mission and vision.

The mission statement for our parish is: *Saint Ann Roman Catholic Church is a welcoming community that encourages and empowers our family of believers to use their unique talents to become active disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ.* And our vision is: *Casting a net to gather as many people as possible for the Kingdom of God.*

In both statements we are focused inwards, **to our immediate family**, as well as outward, **to our other brothers and sisters in Christ**. Remember, our parish has three Big Amazing Goals which we have been working at:

1st – to be a *Welcoming Parish*, 2nd – to have *every family participate in at least 1 ministry*, and 3rd – to be a “Smart” that is an *Informed Parish* which makes available all means of communication for the benefit of our parishioners.

Now, we don't need to have screens to be an Informed parish. But, a good parish allows the gifts God gives us – technology – to help it fulfill its mission and vision. So our screens can help our existing family in several ways. For **SOME**, it facilitates **ACTIVE** participation. Maybe someone cannot see or follow along in the missal or hymnal. Maybe some have forgotten or do not know the words to some of the songs or responses. We are working on being a welcoming parish. We are sending people out on a mission called “2x2” to bring back those who have left our family for whatever reason. **We want to welcome them home – RIGHT?** The screens can help them feel comfortable when they return with words that they may have not spoken

for some time. It can also help new members and those discerning the Catholic faith become more comfortable and acclimated far quicker or easier.

I wish to affirm that the most sacred parts of the mass will have no screen usage, i.e., the Eucharistic Canon of the Sacred Liturgy and Holy Communion after we each have received the Most Precious Body and Blood Soul and Divinity of Our Lord Jesus Christ. This is time for intimate prayer, with our Lord who we have just received. And I'd also like to dispel the rumor we are getting rid of our hymnals. We are not getting rid of the hymnals.

We will be using the screens at the 4:30 Saturday, the 9:45 Sunday, and the 11:30 Sunday for all Mass Parts such as the Gloria, Creed, the Holy Holy, the Memorial Acclamation, and Lamb of God. Our 7:30 Sunday Mass will be our NO SCREEN Mass.

I would just like to say: I understand some of you may not need these aids (the screens), and that is wonderful. However, some of your brothers and sisters are helped by it. So, let's look at the ways we can reach out to others and make their experience enriched by our welcoming hearts and loving response. Let us focus on the Eucharist as the source and summit of our lives that nothing can overshadow or upstage. Let us commit ourselves to praying for our St. Ann family especially at this time and for those who are struggling in any way. Let us do all we can to encourage active participation and to welcome each and every soul to Mass every weekend.

Please, let us not focus on whether we like or do not like the screens. As in all families, we – no matter how hard we try – will not please everyone. **Every soul here is important.** If we are TRULY followers of Christ, we will love one another, and are willing to make sacrifices for the sake of our sisters and brothers next to us, following the LORD as our example. PLEASE, let us focus on how the use of the screens might be helping the person on our left or on our right. Let this be our act of CHARITY for the sake of the ones who are helped by it. Our faith, after all, is not about us but rather our communion with each other in the body of Christ.

*May Jesus Christ be praised. Now and forever.*