

September 21, 2022

Dear Parishioners of St. Joseph Parish,

I am eager to share with you some wonderful news about our parish. After years of talking and consultation, researching, planning and discernment, we have now installed screens and projectors in our church to support us in our liturgical music. Some of you will remember in the old church we had screens suspended from the ceiling with overhead projectors in the front pew. These screens are mounted on the wall on either side of the sanctuary with the projectors suspended from the ceiling.

Our first parish discussion was in May of 2017. There was mixed reactions and opinions at this meeting and it was clear more research and discernment was needed.

In August of 2020 the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops published a document "Considerations for the Use of Technology in the Liturgy." This document is primarily about the use of screens and projectors at Mass and it assured us that the Canadian Bishops are not opposed to the use of screens in liturgy. This document outlined specific suggestions in terms of their use, from which we have developed our policy.

Given this publication the Pastoral Team spent time discerning the pros and cons. Screens give us the benefit of having a larger variety of music without having to purchase a second resource – a wise decision financially. Publishing houses are encouraging us to go paperless. In an effort to be proactive rather than reactive, we believe this is the right time to make this transition.

In June of 2020 the Pastoral Team agreed that we need to move forward in installing screens in the church. At the June 2021 Parish Pastoral Council meeting everyone agreed that the installation of screens and projectors in the church was the best pastoral decision. Subsequently the Finance Committee voted in favour. Lastly, the Chancery Office gave us permission to move forward. Our policy is that the projector will only be used to provide the lyrics from our hymn books.

My desire, as we are directed from Vatican II, is that everyone participates fully at Mass. I hope you can share my excitement as we embrace this technology. St. Augustine tells us that when we sing, we pray twice.

In the Redeemer,

*Fr. Remi Hebert, C.S.R.*

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