

STREAMING MASS at SAINT MATTHEW

I want to give another “shout out” to Alan Christensen who responded at the beginning of “lock down”. He said that he had both the equipment and the expertise to video the Mass so that we could make it available to parishioners, and others who might be tuning in from “all around the country.”

Saint Matthew’s [through Alan] has been able to provide this service and product for more than five months. And, because of Alan’s equipment, we have been able to do this at almost no cost. [You may have seen the appeals of other parish: they have asked for \$20,000 to \$30,000 for equipment for live streaming.]

A friend came to watch and “learn how” to use all the equipment. After 20 minutes of viewing the set-up, etc., that person said: “I don’t know how anyone could learn all this.” Indeed, Alan said that set-up is not hard; it is the trouble-shooting that might be needed that is the hurdle for someone else learning.

We have been using a “hybrid” approach for the last month: we have mass “in person” on Saturday at 4:15pm and we video the same Mass for viewing on the next day— Sunday at 10:15am. There are people who are watching from many places around the country. They remember the quality of homilies and are attracted to hear Fr. Steve’s perspective and challenge each week. [Just last week Fr. Steve received a nice note and generous donation to the church from a woman who watches from “out of town.” She reminded him that he had baptized her son in 1979!!]

Alan has used iPhones of many descriptions to video the Mass. Those devices allow the “camera shots”

to be much closer than stationary cameras mounted in the back of the space. He begs, borrows, and steals [okay, he doesn’t steal any] them from different sources. Recently he added an iPhone 6 to the menagerie.

Now he is looking for another iPhone 6, 7, or 8. Are you upgrading? Would you give us [Alan] your old phone? Please contact me at the parish center.

Thank you; and thanks to Alan again.

John Riehle