



Dear Parishioners of Saint Katharine Drexel:

It is so good to see you retuning to our public Masses and to see so many of you still tuning in to watch live stream Masses each day. Thank you for your continuing financial support to the parish. So many of you continue to be generous in your tithing. I hope this letter finds all of you well.

Many of you have stopped me after Mass and told me how happy you are to be back. Since we can no longer have music books/prayer cards in the pews, several of you have shared your frustration. With COVID-19 restrictions continuing, I realize that music books/prayer cards are quickly becoming obsolete for worship. Additionally, our music books were falling apart and slated to be replaced.

After consultation with parish leadership and parishioners and after much prayer, I knew that we needed to make a permanent change in how we worship, a change that will ensure that your worship experience will be life-giving and at the same time considerate of your health and well-being; a change that will require us to install a new multi-media system.

Some of you may be thinking to yourselves, *"Didn't we just put in a new sound system?"* Yes, we did. However, the current system is still inadequate as many still cannot hear and it does not allow the pairing of the additional equipment that is necessary for a multi-media system. Additionally, with COVID-19, I wish to continue to live stream the Masses. The system we now have is unable to deliver a good quality religious experience for those unable to attend Mass and other liturgical services.

Upon receiving recommendations from the parish leadership team and in consultation with reputable multi-media companies (sound, visual projection, live streaming and archive capabilities), I have decided to install a new multi-media system in the Church to include the following:

- Two projectors that will ensure our full, active participation at Mass (replacing music books and prayer cards).
- Sound System update to improve the sound quality thus eliminating dead spots in certain areas of the worship space and the echoes that bounce off the walls. The Loop system remains intact.
- Camera System to enable quality livestreaming of the Masses and other liturgical services such as Eucharistic and Marian processions, Holy Hours, Stations of the Cross, Weddings, Funerals, Baptisms, etc.

Rationale - Why a new multi-media system for Saint Katharine Drexel Parish?

- Since the Proclamation of the Word and preaching are central to our worship there must be good sound coverage throughout the church to ensure that everyone can hear.
- The current system is inadequate.
- A great deal of effort goes into the proclaiming the Word and in preparation for mine and Father Thobias' homilies but if they cannot be heard they have no effect.

- We have tried many times to tweak the current system to make the sound clearer, but we have come to the conclusion that the sound system we currently have just is not up to the job.
- There is nothing worse than worship music that is too loud or has distorted instruments or voices. This is what we are experiencing right now.
- If worship music is meant to help you pray and sing, then it is difficult to do that if the church sound system itself is a big distraction. This is the exact feedback I have received from many of you.
- While our music ministry is focused on leading us into deeper worship, I think we can do better by improving the existing sound system.

Over the next few months, I will need your support! I have assembled a fundraising team to enable this project to come to fruition. We are planning several fundraising events that will bring this faith community together and at the same time help us make this a reality. The kick-off event that I planned is the *Sports Car Raffle* starting the 4th of July weekend and concluding on Labor Day weekend with a raffle drawing after the 10:30 am Mass. The Sports Car that will be raffled off is a 1995 Dodge Stealth. See the bulletin and website for details. Another proposed event will be an on-line parish concert featuring Paul Todd Charities Inc. Date to be announced. Stay tuned. More events to follow.

Again, thank you for your generosity to SKD faith community. Be assured of my gratitude and prayers for each of you. As we return to normalcy of parish life, let us with the psalmist, raise our voices in praise of God: *I rejoiced when they said to me... "Let us go the house of the Lord."*

Sincerely yours in Christ,

-Father Ricky