

How to Livestream Mass from your Phone

1 - GATHER THREE NECESSARY ITEMS

There are a few items necessary to livestream effectively. Two are absolute necessities, while the third is optional (however, highly recommended).

- **SMARTPHONE** - Doesn't matter what brand, but needs to have access to an app store to acquire the Youtube, Instagram, and Facebook apps (these are the most popular platforms, although more exist).
- **PHONE SUPPORT** - While there are many options here, the most reliable method for supporting the phone is a tripod. This can take many forms, from an all-in-one setup, to a tripod with a separate phone mount.
- **EXTERNAL AUDIO** - **Options below may require an iPhone adapter** Your phone is great, but the audio typically isn't. While this isn't absolutely necessary, having a lavalier microphone that plugs into the phone will provide you with the best audio on a budget. These can be wired (the cheapest option) or wireless (Bluetooth options typically run around \$150). An additional option would be an on-camera shotgun microphone, which will still improve the quality over your phone by a lot. You might be tempted to think that the phone audio will be fine, but bad audio will bring the quality of the livestream down significantly.

2 - DETERMINE PLACEMENT AND SETTINGS

If you have all the equipment but don't use it properly, the quality will drop significantly. Of all the considerations, framing and lighting are the most important.

- **ORIENTATION** - Orientation, or whether your phone is vertical (portrait mode) or horizontal (landscape mode) is very important to assist with framing. Facebook can do either, Youtube works best with a horizontal orientation, and Instagram works best with vertical orientation. Know the platform when you make these decisions and plan accordingly.
- **FRAMING** - Place your phone in the spot you intend to have it. Be sure it isn't too far away so that the audience can tell exactly what's going on, but not too close where they can't see all the "action." If necessary, have someone standing by to turn (pan) the phone if the framing does not allow the audience to see the whole space. Because you'll only be using one camera, do your best to make sure that the shot is dynamic and captures everything. Before setting up your tripod, find the proper placement of the phone by going handheld. This will alleviate having to make multiple tripod adjustments as you attempt to find the right shot. Be sure you have a level shot when all is said and done.
- **LIGHTING** - Your phone works best when it has plenty of light. It also works best when you don't have mixed light. These are issues in many churches. Outdoor daylight has a blue tinge, while indoor lights typically look more yellow. Mixing both of them (if you have large windows and bright internal lights) can often have unflattering effects of skin tones and overall look. If you have large windows that provide ample light, turn off the lights in the church. If you don't have much light from the windows, turn on your lights fully. Either way and above all, be sure the camera on your phone is receiving enough light.

3 - GO LIVE

The final step is taking your shot live. Do this as soon as you're ready to begin.

- **FACEBOOK** - Once in the app on the homepage, hit *Live*, allow Facebook to access your camera and microphone, make sure your camera is facing the altar (you may need to hit the "flip" button to adjust this), and hit "start live video".
- **INSTAGRAM** - Once in the app, swipe right to reveal the proper screen. Select "live" from the bottom options, and hit the white and red button to go live.
- **YOUTUBE** - **Must have a least 1000 followers** Open the app and hit the camera button at the top, allow access, then click "go live".