

**CONTEMPORARY QUESTIONS****Mobile phones at mass**

*Asking the assembled faithful to put away their mobile phones before the beginning of mass is counterproductive.*

Many people use their devices to review the scripture readings, pray the Liturgy of the Hours, or pursue spiritual reading. Of course, some abuse these privileges, but at the cathedral for the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph in the United States of America, the cantor greets the people at every weekend mass with a reference to their phones.

For example, 'Good Morning. Welcome to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception to celebrate the Fifth Sunday of Lent. I invite you to look up our website [kcgolddome.org](http://kcgolddome.org). Under "Today" you will find the music and readings for today's mass. You will also find guidelines for receiving communion, our tour book, and the location of restrooms. Please silence your devices.'

The announcement aims to engage media, not eliminate it; to include the proper use of smart devices, not to ignore them. Under 'Today' the cathedral hosts much practical

information: the opportunity to submit requests for prayer, options for electronic giving, the history of the cathedral, the mass schedule, a blog, a listing of petitions in the Universal Prayer, and information about the young adults' group. 'Today' has become one of the most visited pages on the parish website. Upon hearing the announcement, only a few people can be seen to pull out their phones, but the statistics indicate that they do—whether before they come to church or during the course of the mass. In this simple way, the cathedral aims to seamlessly incorporate the benefits of technology into the practical needs of the faithful at worship.

**Fr Paul Turner** Pastor of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Kansas City, Missouri, USA, and director of the Office of Divine Worship for the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph. He holds a doctorate in sacred theology from Sant' Anselmo in Rome and is the author of numerous books, including *Guide for Celebrating Sunday Mass* (Liturgy Training Publications, 2019) and *Light in the Darkness: Preparing Better Catholic Funerals* (Liturgical Press, 2017).

- *Published in the March, 2020 [Newsletter](#) of the ACU Centre for Liturgy.*