

St Cecilia Church Remodeling Project

Hearing Assistance Systems

As part of the church remodeling project, Saint Cecilia Church has installed two new hearing assistance systems. These systems use different technologies and will help those parishioners who require hearing assistance to better hear during Mass and other events in the church. The first system includes an antenna loop in the floor of the church that can connect to hearing aids via a telecoil in the hearing aids. The second system is a WIFI based system that can connect to cell phones and then connect to an individual's hearing aids via Bluetooth or to any Bluetooth ear buds or ear speakers. Each are described below.

Public Hearing Assistance System (In Floor Loop System)

Telecoils have been standard equipment in most hearing aids for almost 50 years. When used in tandem with a hearing loop, telecoils can dramatically enhance the listening experience in public spaces by piping sound directly to the hearing aid. The Saint Cecilia system includes four inductive hearing loops in the floor of the church. One loop surrounds each of the four sections of pews.

The loop provides a magnetic, wireless signal that is picked up by hearing devices with telecoils. When hearing aid users are inside the loop and the telecoil setting is activated on their hearing aids, conversation, music or other sounds being broadcast on the church sound system are sent directly to the telecoil in their hearing aid. To use this system, the hearing aid user just needs to activate the telecoil system on their hearing aids by touching a button or switch. Some hearing aids are automatically set for T-Coil operation, no selection is needed, simply find your seat and enjoy the service.

If a parishioner does not have telecoils in their hearing aids or doesn't use hearing aids, but still would like some hearing assistance, the church does have wireless receivers and head-sets that will connect to this system. Parishioners can ask one of the ushers for one of these receivers or pick them up in a box in the Usher's room. The receivers are battery powered and have a volume control to adjust the volume. The plug-in head-set is a dual ear unit and can be worn over your head and are very light weight.

WIFI-Based Hearing Assistance System

For the WIFI-based system, audio signals from the church sound system are made available on the Saint Cecilia guest WIFI network. This network relies on the end user's smartphone as a receiver. An app on the phone receives the signals and decodes them for the user. The

smartphone then connects to the end user's hearing aids using Bluetooth technology. Today, most hearing aids can connect to a phone with Bluetooth technology. If a parishioner doesn't have hearing aids, but would like hearing assistance, the user can use their personal headphones or ear buds that are connected to their phone.

The system came with six dedicated smartphone receivers with a plug-in headset with the application already installed and may be picked up from an usher. These are available for parishioners who may not have a smart phone.

The WIFI system is not limited to just the pew area and will operate in range of any of the church guest WIFI signals. Please only use this with Bluetooth ear buds or hearing aids or plugin headphones.

The following are the steps needed to use this system:

1. The end user needs to first go to your phone settings and connect the phone to the church guest WIFI. This service will only operate on the guest WIFI. The password for the Saint Cecilia guest WIFI network STCguest.
2. Then go to your application store and search for WaveCast and download the [WaveCAST](#) app to your smartphone. Once installed, simply open the app and select WaveCast_C which is the church's network. The app will connect to the signal and allow you to listen to the service.

Once the app has been installed and set up on your device all you will need to do as you come into church switch your phone the guest WIFI and open the app on your phone. Volume is adjusted by your phone volume control.

We hope that one of these two systems will serve the needs of all parishioners who are in need of some hearing assistance, whether they use hearing aids or not.