

Basic Guide for improving audio quality in Facebook Live

(updated 3/21/2020)

Compiled by Father Joshua Barrow, Associate Pastor at Our Lady of Mercy Church, East Greenwich

The recent restrictions on public Mass present our parishes with an opportunity to heighten our social media and streaming presence. Facebook Live is the most popular option due to its ease of use and ubiquity. One simply needs a smartphone and you are connected to your parishioners. Yet, most smartphones have terrible microphones.

- **Boom Microphone**

- A condenser/boom microphone can be a way to grab sound and audio from in front of the camera. St. Pius V uses this exact model with great results.
 - https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B015R0IQGW/ref=ox_sc_saved_title_2?smid=ANO9SHL0H3C29&psc=1
- TRS to TRRS adapter. Modern phones need a TRRS input for the microphone to work. Most microphones use a TRS plug so you need an adapter. The Rode microphone above only comes with a TRS wire (at least according to reviews).
 - https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B07DS2G279/ref=ox_sc_act_title_8?smid=A1UKCDH6PA7SVL&psc=1
- If you already have a microphone, then you will simply need this to plug into your phone.
 - https://www.amazon.com/Movo-MC3-Microphone-Adapter-Smartphones/dp/B01N9CJDVE/ref=sr_1_5?dchild=1&keywords=trs+to+trrs+adapter&qid=1584826245&sr=8-5
- For Iphone Users: You need this if you do not have a headphone jack. The TRRS plug goes into this.
 - <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B01LXJFMGF>
- For Android phones without a headphone jack you need the following or something similar:
 - https://www.amazon.com/Samsung-EE-UC10JUWEGUS-Headphone-Adapter-Warranty/dp/B07VF6NSZZ/ref=sr_1_4?dchild=1&keywords=usb+c+to+3.5+for+microphone&qid=1584825802&s=electronics&sr=1-4&swrs=73508F8E9AAC05943FCC5F92CFDB2421

- **XLR Microphones/Use preexisting microphones:**

- A lot of parishes use microphones with an XLR plug. Typically, these microphones also require power (called “phantom power”). You can repurpose them for streaming using this device:
 - https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B0719KPL7W/ref=ox_sc_act_title_6?smid=AU14N51PPEZY0&psc=1

- **Multiple Audio Input:**

- If you have more than one audio source that you want to plug into your smartphone, then you will need to split the signal:
 - https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B00IKMSMWI/ref=ox_sc_act_title_1?smid=A3AMUAP5I0HNIQ&psc=1
 - Note: This is a TRRS to TRRS. If one of your microphones or sources is TRS, then you will need to get an adapter to plug into this. You can use the adapter linked above:
https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B07DS2G279/ref=ox_sc_act_title_8?smid=A1UKCDH6PA7SVL&psc=1

- **Wireless:**

- A lavalier microphone attached to your smartphone is bound to be a hazard especially if you move around a lot. This is a wireless microphone that you can plug into your smartphone. The receiver can be attached to your tripod or taped close to your phone. The transmitter has a built-in microphone and can be clipped to your person. You can also purchase or use a lavalier microphone and attach that to the transmitter.
 - https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B07QGGBNMN/ref=ox_sc_act_title_7?smid=A31X76DW46HF64&psc=1
 - Note: The receiver comes with a TRS to TRS wire to your smartphone. You will need an adapter.

- **Mounting Equipment**

- Tripod/Selfie Stick: This can mount the Rode VideoMicro in the middle of the ring and your smartphone below.
 - https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07TDJ7PWC?ref=ppx_pop_mob_ap_share

- **Helpful Website:** This YouTube channel has proven particularly helpful and this video explains the process above: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jUgesX4g-Ho>
 - Videos on this channel also detail how to stream using a webcam, DSLR camera, Video camera and more. It also details how to set up a YouTube channel and many other informative topics pertinent to video streaming.

Different Microphone Plugs:

- **XLR plug**



- **TRRS plug vs TRS plug**



A big thanks to Fr. Patrick Briscoe for helping with this guide! Check out St. Pius V and their videos to see what a difference good audio can make: <https://spvchurch.org/live-stream>