

# INFORMED

THE FORMED NEWSLETTER FOR PRIESTS & PARISH LEADERS

November 2020

We are excited to announce a brand-new project underway at FORMED! This Advent we are introducing the *Spiritual Roadmap* series—a new FORMED initiative designed to guide your parishioners spiritually in a whole new way throughout the year. Beginning this holy season of Advent, we will journey alongside your parishioners on *The Road to Bethlehem*.

## THE ROAD TO BETHLEHEM

*A brand-new FORMED initiative designed to guide your parishioners through Advent in a whole new way*

We want this to be an Advent to remember—so we are doing something never before done with our first *Spiritual Roadmap*, *The Road to Bethlehem*. We want to spiritually journey with you and your parishioners to Bethlehem this Advent to encounter Christ and his love. This program is designed to guide parishioners spiritually through carefully curated content that is mapped out throughout the season of Advent.

This exciting new project from FORMED will allow you to engage your parishioners in an ongoing way throughout the Advent season—even while they are at home. *The Road to Bethlehem* is an opt-in digital discipleship program that enables parishioners to receive spiritual enrichment on a daily basis curated by Augustine Institute professors for the holy season of Advent.

The *Advent Spiritual Roadmap* includes

- Daily Advent reflections by Dr. Tim Gray
- Weekly talks by Augustine Institute professors created specifically for the *Advent Spiritual Roadmap*
- Brother Francis Advent reflections for kids
- Weekly videos, audio talks, and book excerpts related to the theme of the week
- Action items designed to help parishioners take the Advent message and apply it to their daily lives

The steps to offer the *Advent Spiritual Roadmap* to your parish are easy

1. Look out for our introductory email in the third week of November with instructions and a sign-up link.
2. Forward parishioners to the sign-up landing page.
3. We will take it from there!

# WITNESS A SPIRITUAL RENEWAL THIS ADVENT WITH *FORGIVEN!*

With Advent fast approaching, consider offering a *Forgiven* retreat at your parish! The season of Advent is a perfect time for spiritual renewal through encountering God's mercy in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.



*Our Leader Guide gives a step-by-step tool kit to offer  
Forgiven as a retreat or parish mission at your parish this Advent in  
English and Spanish!*

Please see instructions below on how to access our videos and study guides on FORMED so that your parishioners may encounter God's mercy in this most holy season.

## Digital option

1. To access *Forgiven* videos, [click here](#).
2. To access the Leader Guide and Study Guide, [click here](#) and scroll down to select the guides for digital download.

## Physical option

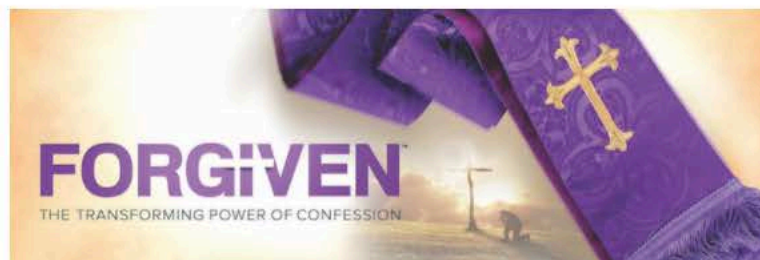
1. To purchase the physical *Forgiven* DVD sets, [click here](#).
2. To purchase the physical *Forgiven* Leader Guide and Study Guide (five pack, 60% off) [click here](#).

[Click here](#) to see all FORMED Leader Resources for *Forgiven*, including flyers, guides, bulletin blurbs, pulpit pitches, business cards, and homily talking points!

*Forgiven* is available in Spanish! [Click here](#) to access Spanish videos and guide materials.



## VIEW FORGIVEN (English)



### USE FORGIVEN FOR A POWERFUL THREE-NIGHT PARISH MISSION

Inspire parishioners to experience God's mercy in a whole new way

#### SET THE DATES AND INVITE THE PARISH

Parishioners gather on three consecutive evenings and use these sessions from *Forgiven*:

Session 1: *Where are You?*

Session 2: *An Encounter with Mercy*

Session 3: *The Rite Explained*

#### OPENING PRAYER AND INTRODUCTION

The evening begins with the opening prayer and introduction as outlined in **STEP 1: Opening Prayer and Introduction** from the Leader Guide.

#### WATCH THE VIDEO

The video is introduced and watched together. Each participant can follow along with the outline for that session. The outline for the video episode (labeled **STEP 3: VIDEO**) can be downloaded and printed from the session Leader Guide or Study Guide found on FORMED.

#### DISCUSS

The discussion questions for the session (found in the Leader Guide under **STEP 4: DISCUSS** within each session) are read, and participants are given the opportunity to answer and discuss each question. (Depending on the number of participants, small group break outs might be preferred.)

#### WRAP UP AND CLOSING PRAYER

Share with the large group the key points participants should take away from the evening. Conclude with the closing prayer from the Leader Guide under **STEP 6: Wrap up and Closing Prayer**.

#### PARISH Penance SERVICE

The third evening can conclude with a Parish Penance Service, making the Sacrament of Reconciliation available with several priests. In lieu of the wrap up, the leader can slowly read aloud the **Examination of Conscience Based on the Ten Commandments** from page 47 of the Leader Guide. (The leader may also download and print this list from FORMED and distribute it to each participant.)

FORMED



AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE

## VER PERDONADO (Español)

### ¡Un Estudio Transformador Para Toda la Parroquia!

### PERDONADO

EL PODER TRANSFORMADOR DE LA CONFESSION

Únete a nosotros en un estudio de 3 semanas basado en videos desde la página [formed.org](http://formed.org). *Perdonado* es una hermosa presentación del poder transformador de la confesión. ¡No importa lo que hayas hecho! ¡no importa cuánto tiempo has estado alejado! ¡Jesús te espera en el Sacramento de la Reconciliación! Ve a la página de [formed.org](http://formed.org) y busca *Perdonado*.



Utiliza la Guía del Líder para su discusión

- ▶ Semana Uno:  
**¿Dónde Estás?**
- ▶ Semana Dos:  
**Un Encuentro de Misericordia**
- ▶ Semana Tres:  
**Explicación del Rito**
- ▶ Episodio Adicional:  
**Para Niños: Cómo Hacer Una Buena Confesión**

¡Disfruta de FORMED de manera fácil y gratuita!

- 1 Ingresa a [signup.formed.org](http://signup.formed.org)
- 2 Selecciona tu parroquia
- 3 Inscríbete usando tu nombre y correo electrónico
- 4 Revisa tu correo y sigue la liga para que comiences a usar FORMED

FORMED  
LA FE CATHOLICK  
ON DEMAND

In this series, participants will discover the merciful way that God seeks us out when we have sinned and calls us back to himself. They will examine the sacrament from the perspective of both the priest and the penitent, and they will explore the scriptural foundation of the sacrament. This study will help them recognize the beauty of the Rite of Penance and the transformative power of the grace God offers us in this sacrament.

*A DRE tells the story of how Forgiven was used to bring her parish families back to Confession and the Mass.*

Stacey Pinder, DRE of Christ the King parish in Milwaukie, Oregon, recounts the incredible story of how *Signs of Grace* and *Forgiven* were used to engage the kids and adults of her parish and lead them back to God's mercy in the Sacrament of Confession and return to Mass.

## All of my families started going to Mass

Stacey Pinder, **DRE of Christ the King**, on  
the impact of *Signs of Grace* and *Forgiven*

After ten years in religious education, Stacey Pinder decided “it was time to shake things up.”

Of the twenty-five families that Pinder worked with at Christ the King, only three regularly attended Sunday Mass. She wondered, for many of them, if First Communion was more a rite of passage with dress-up clothes and a party than the sacrament of receiving Jesus—Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity.

Pinder decided to shift from classroom instruction to a family catechesis model using *Signs of Grace* for kids and *Forgiven* for parents.

Then, something happened.

“It felt very different from the first lesson,” Pinder said after her first session using the new model.

There was a difference, to be sure, in the children, *but a powerful transformation began in the lives of their parents* once they started using *Forgiven*.

From what parents shared with her, she realized that some of them had been “carrying very heavy burdens.”

One couple called to say that they had scheduled a time for them both to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation after a long absence. Another couple arranged to have their marriage blessed. Three couples enrolled in RCIA to complete their sacraments. One parent, after she had been to Reconciliation, told Pinder: “I’ve never felt so free.”

“All of my families,” Pinder said, “started going to Mass.”

[VIEW FORGIVEN](#)



## IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO GET \$1.50 BOOKS FOR YOUR PARISH!

We are excited to announce the return of our \$1.50 book sale this Advent. Our desire is for parishes to have the tools they need to edify their parishioners—at an affordable rate. That is why we are offering several of our books for \$1.50 when you purchase three bundles or more.

*See our \$1.50 book offerings below.*



The Search



God: What Every  
Catholic Should Know



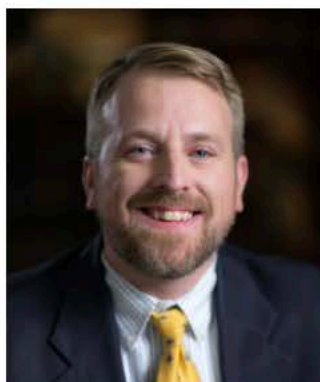
The Best Advent Ever:  
Book #3 The  
Adventures of Nick &  
Sam (Kids)



La Búsqueda  
(Spanish)

[PURCHASE BOOKS](#)

## FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR DR. BEN AKERS



November is the month dedicated to the holy souls in Purgatory. We call them "holy" because they will attain the vision of God when their time of purgation is complete. The root of the word "Purgatory" — which means "to purify or make clean" — discloses the purpose of Purgatory: to cleanse us from our attachment to worldly things. Purgatory, according to the glossary in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, is a "state of final purification after death and before entrance into heaven." It explains the temporary and intermediate states that souls endure who did not die in mortal sin but are not yet "perfect as [their] heavenly Father is perfect" (Mt 5:48).

In both the Old and New Testaments, we find evidence that our prayers impact the souls in Purgatory. The Old Testament, in particular, provides us with a great example in the Jewish general Judas Maccabeus, who prays for some deceased soldiers to make “atonement for the dead, that they might be delivered from their sin” (2 Mc 12:45). Thus, we find an example that indicates that our prayers help to purify the souls in Purgatory. As Catholics, we are given the great ability and responsibility to intercede for our brothers and sisters in this intermediate state. Our prayers help to expedite their time in Purgatory so they can see God's face more quickly. Within the Catholic Church, there is a tradition that holds that Jesus appeared to St. Gertrude, disclosing a specific prayer for the souls in Purgatory. Always, but most especially in the month of November, let us join St. Gertrude in praying for these Holy Souls in Purgatory.

*Eternal Father, I offer thee the Most Precious Blood of thy Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the Holy Souls in Purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal Church, those in my own home and within my family.*  
*Amen.*

## LITURGICAL SPOTLIGHT

Enjoy our [November stripe](#) featuring content to celebrate All Saints' Day, Christ the King, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and other November saints!

- [All Saints' Day](#) (Video)
- [Jesus the Bridegroom: The Greatest Love Story Ever Told](#) by Brant Pitre (Audio)
- [Mary of Nazareth](#) (Video)
- [Ode to Saint Cecilia](#) (Augustine Institute Radio Theatre)
- [La Biblia y la Virgen María: recorriendo las Sagradas Escrituras](#) (Spanish Video)

I have parishioners who go through the platform like machines. FORMED has given them purpose.

”

**Fr. Christopher Sullivan**  
Our Lady of Victory



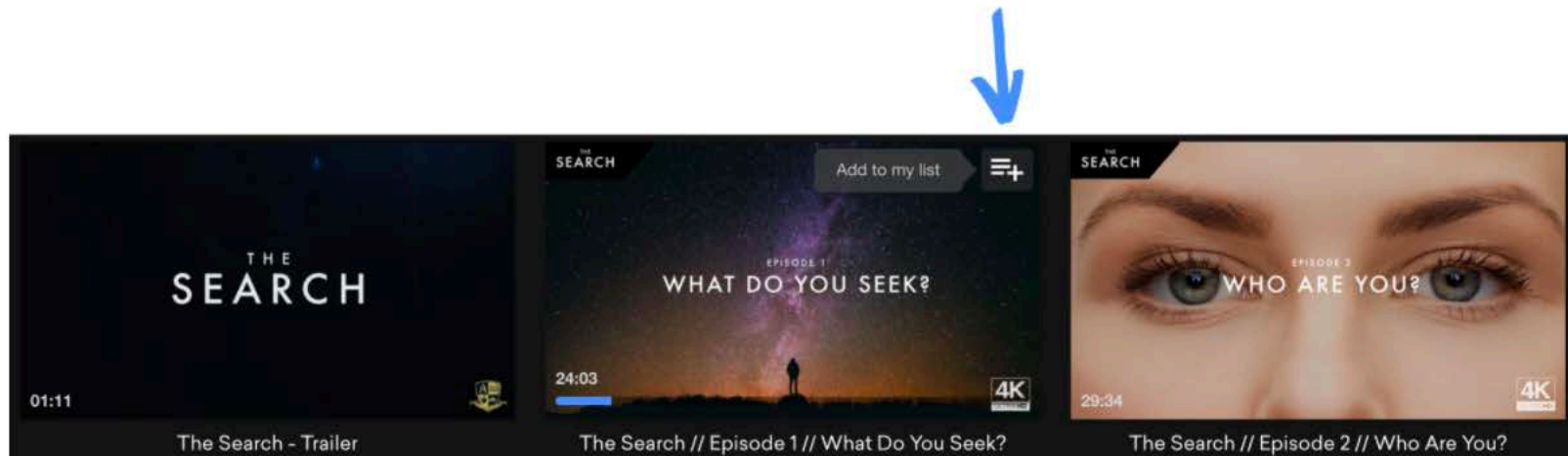
# GETTING MORE OUT OF FORMED

## "MY LIST" FEATURE

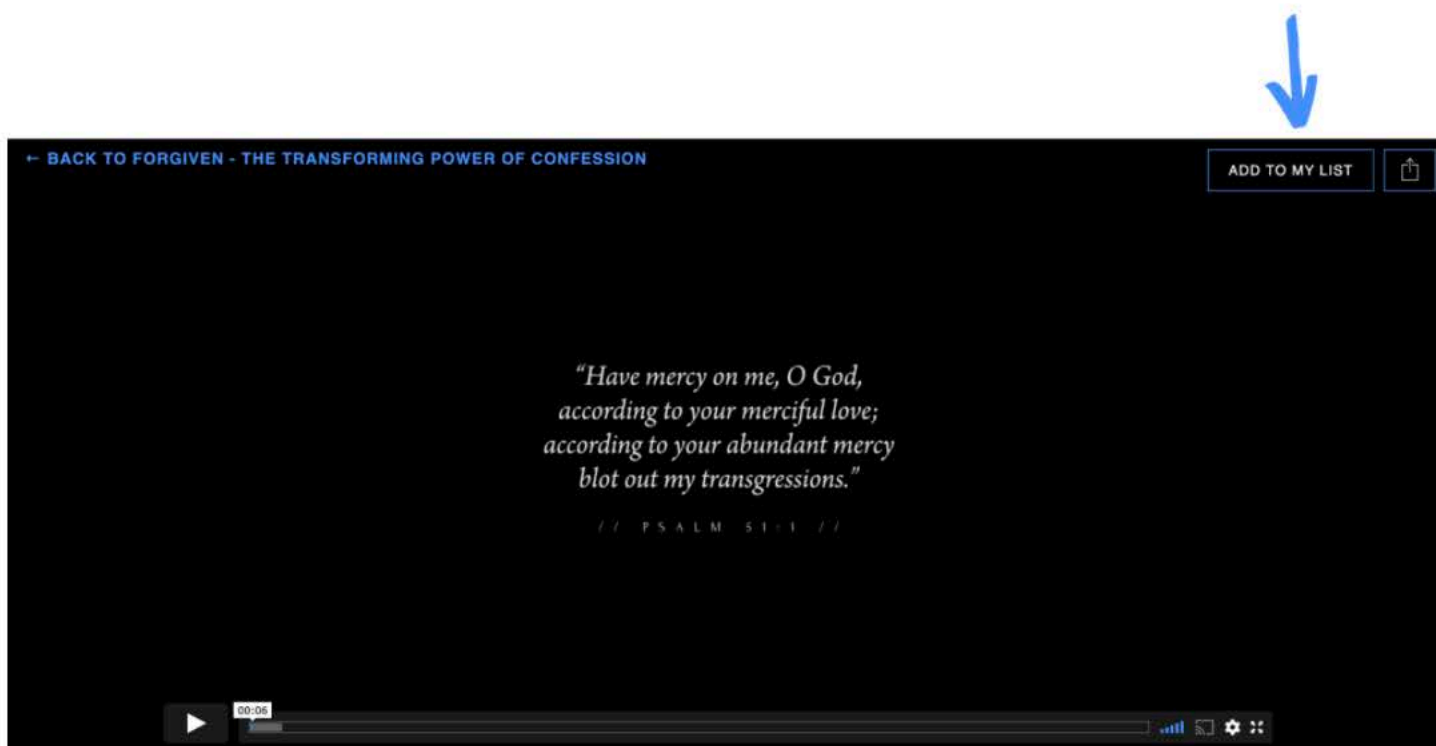
This feature allows you to bookmark content so that you can save and watch it later—all in one easy to find location!

### How to Add Something Using the "My List" Feature

- To add from the FORMED homepage, hover your mouse over the video, audio, or book that you would like to save and click "Add to my list" in the upper right-hand corner.



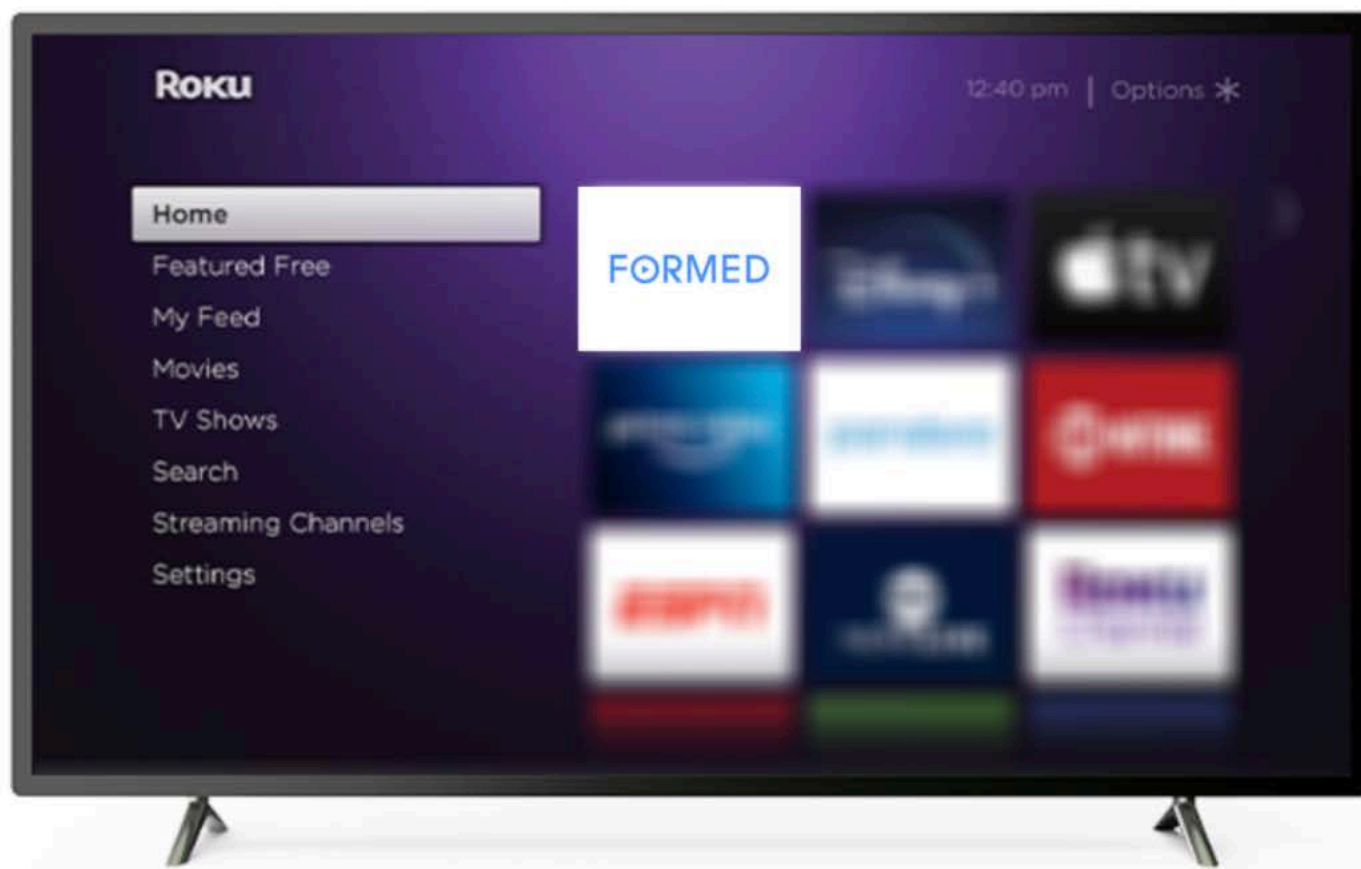
- To add from inside an individual video, audio, or book that you would like to save, click "Add to my list" in the upper right-hand corner of the file.



- To view "My List" return to the FORMED homepage and scroll below the carousel to discover your saved videos, audios, and talks all in one place!

## DID YOU KNOW?

*FORMED is available on Roku*



*To add FORMED to your Roku, follow these easy steps:*

1. Add the [FORMED channel](#) to your Roku from the [channel shop](#).
2. Open the FORMED Roku channel on your Roku and click SIGN IN (it will give you an activation code).
3. On a different device (computer or phone), visit the [Activate page](#) and login (if you are not).
4. Enter the code from the Roku channel and click Activate.
5. The FORMED channel will load and you are all set to watch!

Let's socialize! Follow the Augustine Institute for more great content:



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