

INFORMED

THE FORMED NEWSLETTER FOR PASTORS AND PARISH LEADERS

VIA LUCIS: THE STATIONS OF THE RESURRECTION

This April, the Church walks us through Holy Week and into the joys of Easter. As we take this time to celebrate Christ's victory over death, God continues to invite us into a deeper relationship with him. This Easter is the perfect opportunity to know the Lord more through his Resurrection.



A new devotion emerging in the Church is the *Via Lucis* (Way of Light).

Via Lucis, or the Stations of the

Resurrection, are an excellent way to enter into the Paschal Mystery and follow Christ after he rises from the dead. Based on scenes in Scripture, *Via Lucis* complements the Stations of the Cross by celebrating his Resurrection and glorification, thus allowing the faithful to meditate on the twofold nature of the Paschal Mystery fully.

Using the Stations of the Cross as a model, *Via Lucis* contains fourteen stations from different passages in Scripture, beginning with the empty tomb. Your parishioners will meditate on stories like the road to Emmaus, Thomas' faith, Peter's primacy, and the Ascension. Bringing these scenes of the resurrected Christ to life, FORMED's *Via Lucis: The Stations of the Resurrection* walks viewers through the stations by reading the Scriptures and includes a reflective and insightful conversation with Drs. Tim Gray and Ben Akers as they dive into the meaning of the text.

Each video is available on FORMED and is a great listen for the Easter season. It can be tempting to fall away from Lenten prayer practices once the Church has reached the time of Easter celebration. However, *Via Lucis* is a fantastic tool your parishioners can use to deepen their prayer life and relationship with the Lord. These can be listened to individually or as a springboard for group meditation. This Easter, walk your parish through the way of light with FORMED's *Via Lucis*.

HIGHLIGHTS ON FORMED



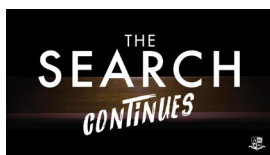
O Lamb of God, I Love You

This special feature-length episode of *The Wonderful World of Benjamin Cello* tells the story of the Passion of the Lord for small children. Using immersive and artful shadow puppetry and a soaring full orchestral score, the characters of this show bring to life the greatest love story ever told. This episode is excellent to recommend to the families of your flock to help them introduce and instruct their kids on this essential story.



Catholic All Year at Home with Kendra Tierney

Have you ever wondered how to bring faith into everyday life in your family? Welcome to the Tierney home, where Kendra and her ten children celebrate Catholic feast days with delicious recipes and wacky traditions. This series shows how liturgical living in the home is a fun and natural way to evangelize those closest to us. Bring liturgical living into your faith community by encouraging parishioners to watch and celebrate the traditions of the *Church with Catholic All Year at Home*.



The Search Continues

Do your parishioners still have lingering questions about the Church's teachings? Are you looking for a new way to bring digital evangelization into your catechesis? *The Search Continues* is a fantastic series of Q&A interviews with Chris Stefanick and professors from the Augustine Institute Graduate School of Theology as they respond to some of the most searched online questions about the Catholic faith. These videos are great as an accompaniment to *The Search* or as a resource for catechists and individuals seeking to answer big questions.

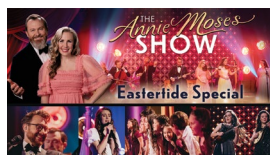
LITURGICAL CALENDAR

This April, bring your parishioners into the Easter season and Divine Mercy Sunday with these great resources on FORMED:



Easter in Art

This three-part series on FORMED looks at depictions of Easter in art and the theology behind them. Sit down with Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp as they examine paintings of Christ's descent into hell, his Resurrection, and his encounter with Mary Magdalene. Much of the meaning painted into sacred art pieces is often lost to the eyes of modern viewers. Through these videos, individuals can understand and appreciate the art on a deeper level while also understanding the mystery of Christ.



Easterlude Special | The Annie Moses Show

Patterned after classic variety shows like Ed Sullivan and Carol Burnett, *The Annie Moses Show* brings together singers, players, actors, and creators to declare the truth, beauty, and goodness of God. This Eastertide special brings together several acts to celebrate the Easter season and glorify the Lord. Have your parishioners renew their appreciation for the beauty of music and the arts with this fun and upbeat show.



April 16: Divine Mercy Sunday *Divine Mercy with Fr. Michael Gaitley*

As we approach Divine Mercy Sunday, lead your parishioners into a series that tells the second greatest story ever told—the story of divine mercy. Lead a group study or encourage your flock to journey with Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC, as he shares the incredible story revealing the work of God's hand in modern times. Additional guidebooks and DVDs to assist you in group programs can be purchased on Catholic Market.

CONTENT SPOTLIGHT

Lectio: Mark

Although Catholics hear a large chunk of the Bible from the readings at Mass, they have traditionally had a bit of an inferiority complex when compared to their Protestant brothers and sisters about how well they know Scripture.

To walk the faithful through the Bible, the *Lectio* studies from the Augustine Institute offer parishes a uniquely Catholic Bible study program that integrates contemporary research and scholarship. As we approach the Feast of St. Mark the Evangelist on April 25, consider helping your parish know the Gospel of Mark on a deeper level with *Lectio: Mark* with Dr. Tim Gray.

Parishes that have used *Lectio* studies in the past report tremendous fruits that grow from inviting people to hear and meditate on the Word of God.

Debbie Shearn, whose parish in Louisville, Kentucky, has used *Lectio* for women's Bible studies, said that the studies first filled a human need—that of women to spend time together and share their faith. Participants watched each weekly video and then used the study guides for their daily prayer, reflection on the week's lesson, and daily "Commits" that incorporate a detailed examination of sacred art and stories from the lives of the saints. When the women met in small groups, Shearn was impressed with "how deeply the women were sharing."

Katie Frandsen, a Bible study facilitator at St. Francis de Sales Parish in Lansing, Kansas, praised the *Lectio* series for being "more in-depth" than previous studies the parish had used and offering "a nice combination of Scripture study and faith formation."

The study of Scripture is something for which many Catholics hunger, and *Lectio: Mark* walks participants through the entire Gospel of Mark to feed that hunger. Help your parish actively engage with Scripture and come to know the Lord more this April with *Lectio*.



DEVOTIONAL CONTENT



Divine Mercy Chaplet | Franciscan Friars of the Renewal

Inspire your parishioners to join the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal in praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet as Divine Mercy Sunday fast approaches. Featuring breathtaking footage from Martin Jernberg that captures the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, the Sisters of Life, the Brothers of Saint John, the Missionaries of Charity, and the OFMs, this prayer video will help your parishioners experience the beauty and breadth of the world and the Church with whom and for whom they are praying.

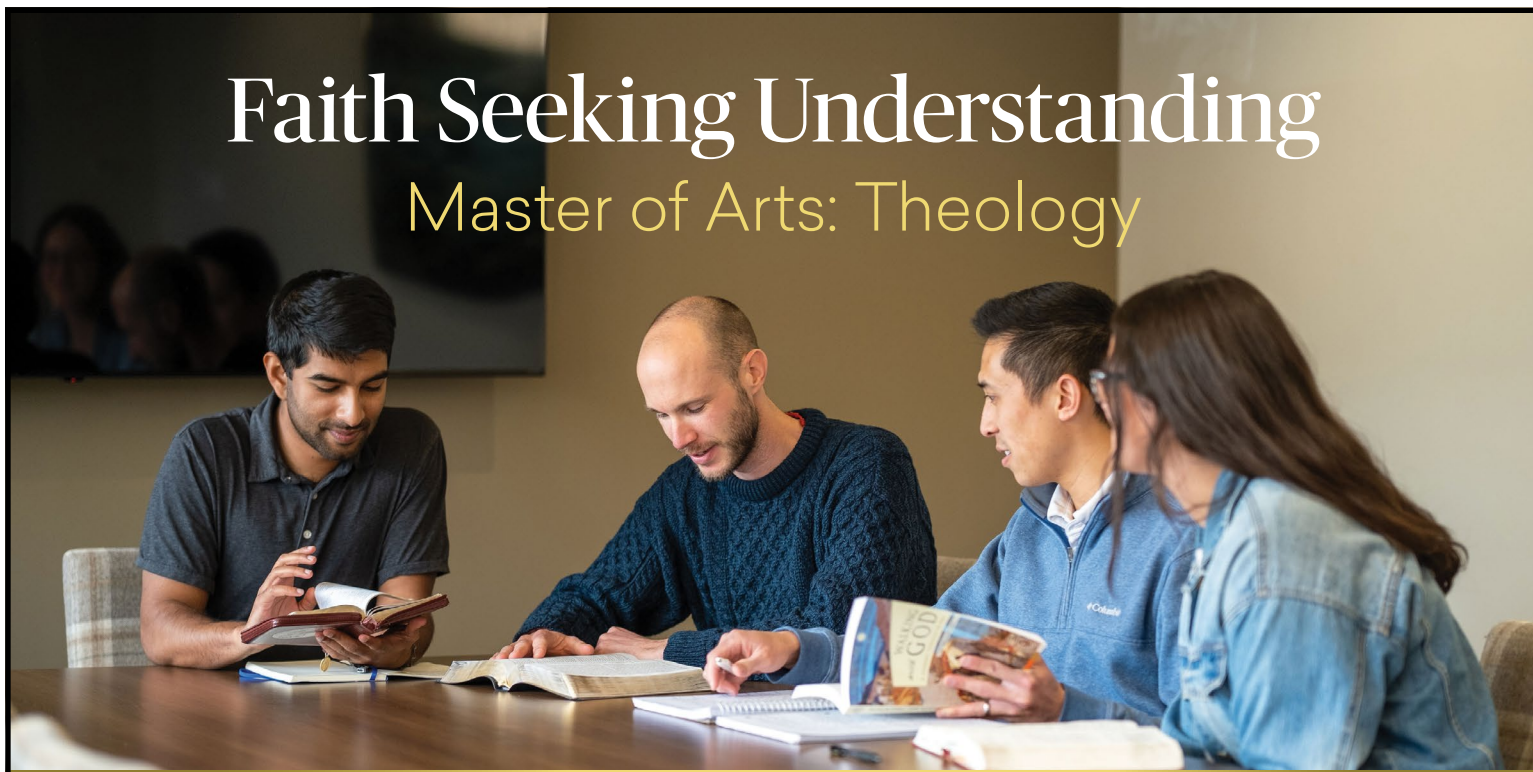


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