

INFORMED

THE FORMED NEWSLETTER FOR PASTORS AND PARISH LEADERS

ADVENT & GRATITUDE

The month of November is a time to look back on the year and remember how the Lord has made himself present in our lives. Moreover, it is a time to reflect with gratitude on the gifts he has given us while looking forward to the ultimate gift of Christ himself in the Christmas season.

Coming from the Latin “adventus,” meaning “a coming or approach,” the season of Advent is the beginning of the Church’s liturgical year. It is a time dedicated to preparing ourselves for Christ’s Second Coming as we also remember the Nativity of Our Lord. This year, Advent begins on Sunday, December 3, and ends on Christmas Eve.

When reflecting on Advent, we might consider the “O” Antiphons—a series of antiphons sung during Evening Prayer from December 17 through Christmas Day—as a guide for our own approach to the season. These antiphons reference the Old Testament’s hope for the coming messiah while also announcing the birth of Christ. Likewise, we can use this time to renew our own hope and trust in the Lord, allowing our spirits to be filled with the joy, peace, and love of God as we look forward to Christmas.

As we renew our hope, FORMED’s new series, *Rooted: Rediscover the Jesse Tree This Advent*, is a great way to dive into the Advent season and deepen our spiritual lives. This series examines Old Testament stories and reflects on how they can prepare us for the coming messiah in the same way that God prepared his people for the Nativity of Our Lord. Like the “O” Antiphons, each episode uses the words and stories of the Old Testament to herald the coming of Christ. Through this, we can prepare our hearts and minds for the Christmas season, understanding all the more how the Lord is inviting us to receive him with love and joy.

This Advent, prepare your parish for a season of hope and peace with *Rooted* and other great resources on FORMED.



SCAN ME

Explore the new FORMED Advent calendar with daily recommendations this Advent! From small group studies, novenas, to family films, help prepare your parishioners’ hearts this Advent with inspiring content on FORMED!

NEW ON FORMED

Introduce your parish to this exciting new content on FORMED this November:



Marcam | Season 2

Through music and exploratory learning, *Marcam* has helped children better understand the depth and beauty of the Catholic faith. This month, FORMED is excited to release another season of this educational and fun show. With engaging episodes on the Eucharistic Revival and a Christmas special coming out in December, this series will continue to explore and educate young children on some of the most important teachings of the Church.



Homeless but Human: A Christ in the City Documentary

Homeless but Human is an inspiring new documentary capturing the impact and importance of relationship with the homeless. The film follows missionaries for Christ in the City—a Catholic apostolate dedicated to loving and serving those who experience homelessness—as they encounter individuals who are often ignored or forgotten. This must-watch is a great way to encourage your parishioners to step out and serve the poor as an act of thanksgiving to God and love for those most in need this holiday season.

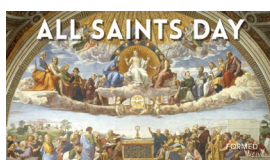


Bread of Life: The Eucharist in Galilee

Continue enriching your parish's knowledge and devotion to the Eucharist with *Bread of Life: The Eucharist in Galilee*. This special offering on FORMED educates viewers on how the Eucharist was revealed in Christ's work in Galilee before the Last Supper. A wonderful series to promote in conjunction with the Eucharistic Revival, this five-part series is an impactful opportunity to reflect on the significance of the Eucharist and how Jesus' ministry unveils this incredible gift.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

This November, help your parishioners dive deeper into the liturgical calendar with these great resources on FORMED:



November 1: Solemnity of All Saints

FORMED Now | Catholic Saints

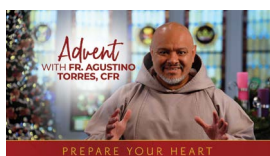
In celebration of the Solemnity of All Saints, explore the lives of different holy men and women, including St. Augustine, St. Teresa of Calcutta, and St. Francis, with Augustine Institute theologians on FORMED Now Catholic Saints!



November 2: Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed

The Faithful Departed | Eternal Rest | Episode 4

In this episode of *Eternal Rest*, viewers can learn what they can do as they grieve for the deceased. Using the Catholic Church's teachings about death and the afterlife, *Eternal Rest* is an essential resource dedicated to giving viewers greater peace, solace, and perspective.



December 3: First Sunday of Advent

Prepare Your Heart | Advent with Fr. Agustino Torres, CFR

Starting the first week of Advent, look forward to a weekly release of *Prepare Your Heart*, an Advent series featuring Fr. Agustino Torres, CFR, who will lead viewers through reflections focusing on the coming of Christ. Examining the journey of the Advent season, Fr. Agustino walks with participants to the Nazareth of their hearts, the place in which Christ lives.

CONTENT SPOTLIGHT

Drawing Closer to God this Advent

As the holidays approach, our families look forward to the coming of Christmas and the season of giving and joy. Yet this *looking forward* does not always translate to *preparing*. We might have all the decorations put out and the presents wrapped, but are the inside of our hearts as prepared as the outside of our homes or the gifts under the tree?



The season of Advent responds to the busyness we can find ourselves in before Christmas and gives us the opportunity to step back and prepare for the coming of Christ. It is a time to examine our hearts and reflect on how we can grow more in our relationship with God. In family life, it is especially a time to

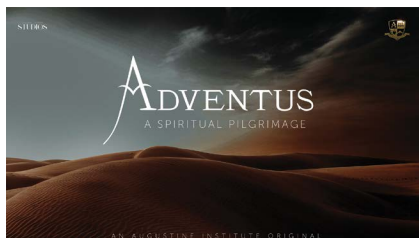
bring our family together in prayer and conversation about the Nativity of the Lord. Yet starting the conversation on Advent can be challenging. We might struggle with what to talk about, or how to teach our children in a way that is engaging and clear.

Enter *Drawing Closer to God*, FORMED's newest series dedicated to teaching young children about the Advent season through fun and creative means. In this series, children and families can journey through the Advent season and learn about different scenes from Scripture and Tradition through art and storytelling. As kids follow along with each episode, they can learn new art skills as they also discover how each story told connects to the greater story of the Gospel. Through *Drawing Closer to God*, families can come together to prepare their hearts for the coming of Christ.

Beginning with a lesson on the Advent wreath and moving through stories about the Annunciation, the journey to Bethlehem, the shepherds in the field, the Nativity, and the three wise men, Catholic teacher Kim Maloney artfully weaves together the lesson of drawing a picture with the greater lesson of the story of Advent. With each episode, kids are challenged to prepare their hearts and minds for Christmas through sacrifice, prayer, charity, and joy.

This Advent, encourage your parish families to step deeper into the season with *Drawing Closer to God* on FORMED.

DEVOTIONAL CONTENT



Adventus: A Spiritual Pilgrimage

Adventus is a special offering of the Augustine Institute that is another way to help your parishioners prepare themselves for the Advent season. *Adventus* gives everyone the opportunity to make a spiritual pilgrimage to the Holy Land and see the places associated with the Nativity of the Lord. Narrated by Dr. Ben Akers with superb cinematography capturing the beauty of the Holy Land, this documentary is another way to open the hearts of your flock in preparation for Christ's coming.

FORMED®

6160 S. Syracuse Way
Greenwood Village, CO 80111

An offering from the  AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE



Catholic Market™

Don't wait to order Advent gift books!

Nourish the faith of your parish staff, teachers, volunteers, and parishioners with Dr. Brant Pitre's *Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist*. We offer this book in cases of 40 for as low as **\$2.00 per copy with FREE shipping** in the U.S. and Canada.

Order now to ensure arrival by
**December 3, the First Sunday
of Advent!**



 SCAN ME

An offering from the  AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE