

This Advent, there’s something for everyone on FORMED.

ENJOY TWO NEW SERIES TO PREPARE FOR CHRISTMAS.

Rooted: Rediscover the Jesse Tree This Advent offers daily reflections that apply Scripture to everyday life using the Jesse Tree. **Drawing Closer To God: A Catholic Art Show for Kids** teaches children how to draw different scenes from the Nativity story.



THERE’S STILL TIME TO JOIN US!
EXPLORE FORMED TODAY.

INFORMED

DEC 2023

THE FORMED NEWSLETTER FOR PASTORS AND PARISH LEADERS



THE VIRTUES OF ADVENT

In the time leading up to Christmas, the Advent wreath is often used to represent the virtues of hope, peace, love, and joy that we reflect on in the Advent season. As we pass through each week of Advent, we can contemplate the importance of each virtue and consider the ways that the Lord is calling us to grow in them. Through this, we prepare our hearts and minds for the spirit of rejoicing in the Christmas season.

Traditions like the Advent wreath have become a staple for families to introduce the preparatory nature of the season to their children. To go alongside this, FORMED is excited to offer *Drawing Closer to God*, a Catholic art show for kids. This series is dedicated to teaching young children about the Advent season and helping families “draw closer” to the Lord. Beginning with a lesson on the Advent wreath, each episode includes both creative storytelling and crafting. Children will follow along with Catholic art teacher Ms. Kim as she tells and illustrates the stories of the Annunciation, the journey to Bethlehem, the shepherds in the field, the Nativity, and more.

In each episode, Ms. Kim begins with a brief introduction to the story of the image she will be drawing. Each story captures and portrays the virtues of Advent in a way that challenges families to grow more in them. After praying a creative prayer, she gives step-by-step instructions on how to draw each picture so kids can follow along. As she colors in the image, Ms. Kim reflects on the story and invites families to prepare themselves in tangible and practical ways for the coming of Christ at Christmas.

As you help families prepare for Christmas, consider using *Drawing Closer to God* as an invitation for them to grow and learn about the stories of hope, peace, love, and joy that fill the Advent season.



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!

CHRISTMAS CLASSICS ON FORMED

Celebrate Christmas at your parish with these classics on FORMED:



Mary of Nazareth
One of FORMED’s most popular offerings, *Mary of Nazareth* is an epic motion picture that shares the beautiful and compelling story of Mary, Mother of God. Following her life from childhood to the Resurrection of Jesus, actress Alissa Jung inspiringly captures the humility and compassion of Christ’s Holy Mother.



O Holy Night | Christmas with the Annie Moses Band
Patterned after classic variety shows like *The Ed Sullivan Show* and *The Carol Burnett Show*, *The Annie Moses Show* brings together singers, players, actors, and creators to declare the truth, beauty, and goodness of God. This Christmas special brings together several acts to celebrate the Christmas season and glorify the Lord.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

This December, help your parishioners bring liturgy into the home with these episodes of *Catholic All Year at Home* with Kendra Tierney:



December 5: The Feast of St. Nicholas
St. Nicholas Day | Catholic All Year at Home w/ Kendra Tierney
The Feast of St. Nicholas is a great day for a home to add to the festivity and joy of Advent. In this episode, viewers can learn how to make several delicious dishes that are centered around the stories of St. Nicholas.



December 22: Christmas Eve
Christmas Eve | Catholic All Year at Home w/ Kendra Tierney
As Advent comes to an end and families gather to prepare for the joy of Christmas, this episode of *Catholic All Year* adds a new dimension to how we approach the final evening of the season with great recipes and insights on liturgical living.

Kids Content THIS CHRISTMAS

Bring the whole family together with these educational and fun episodes on FORMED:

Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Juan Diego | Littlest Saints

On December 12, have your families come to know the miraculous story of St. Juan Diego and the apparition of Our Lady of Guadalupe. *Littlest Saints* captures the lives of the saints as told by children. With creative storytelling and artful cinematography, this episode is a fantastic way to teach kids about Our Lady and how the Lord calls us to act courageously for his Church.



O Holy Night, the King is Born: What Christmas Is About | Brother Francis

With songs and interactive learning, *Brother Francis* presents the story of Christmas for young children and families. This special episode captures the love of the Holy Family and the joy of the Nativity. Help the families at your parish learn more of what Christmas is really about this December.



CONTENT SPOTLIGHT

Staying Rooted in Christ this Advent

The hustle of the holiday season can leave us feeling disconnected from what this time is about. When we allow ourselves to get caught up in it all, we are often robbed of the peace, hope, love, and joy that is meant to enrich our Advent.

With all the distractions that arise in the holiday season, it is good to find something that helps us stay rooted in our faith and in the Lord. As we await Christmas, finding time with God and growing in the virtues of Advent is essential in helping us remain in Christ.

As we grow in our relationship with the Lord, FORMED’s new series, *Rooted: Rediscover the Jesse Tree This Advent*, is a great foundation for our spiritual lives during this busy time. With a daily reflection that dives into Scripture and the rich teachings of the Church, *Rooted* offers a chance to prepare our hearts and minds for the Christmas season.

In each episode, Augustine Institute professor Dr. Scott Hefelfinger examines the words and stories of the Old Testament and demonstrates how they prepare the way for

the coming of Christ. As viewers continue through Advent, they can come to understand how these Old Testament roots of our faith can bear great fruits in our prayer and spiritual lives.

Ultimately, these lessons help shape the lens through which we view Advent and our lives as Christians. By bringing these reflections into our daily prayer, we can come to see the Lord’s invitation to grow in the virtues of peace, hope, love, and joy.

This Advent, prepare your parish for a season of growth and virtue with *Rooted: Rediscover the Jesse Tree This Advent* and other great resources on FORMED.



DEVOTIONAL CONTENT



The Spirituality of Advent | FORMED Now

Do you have parishioners who would like to live Advent more intentionally? Covering the spirituality of Advent, this episode of FORMED Now gives them a perfect opportunity to do so. Listen to Dr. Tim Gray as he provides fantastic recommendations to enter more deeply into Advent as an individual or a family. Through this, your parishioners can grow closer to their Lord in their daily lives this season.