

# INFORMED

THE FORMED NEWSLETTER FOR PASTORS AND PARISH LEADERS

## CATHOLIC PARENTING AND FAMILY LIFE

“As the family goes, so goes the nation, and so goes the whole world.” With these words, St. Pope John Paul II underscored the battle of our times that lies within each of our homes. As our culture continues to undermine and attack traditional family values, it is now more important than ever to understand and live out the role of the family.

On December 31, the Church celebrated the Feast of the Holy Family. This entry into the New Year reminds us of what the family is meant to be—a place where each person can learn what love really is. Through this, every person can encounter the love of God and the life he invites them to.

To aid families in their mission of love, FORMED is excited to offer a new series from the Knights of Columbus, *Into the Breach: The Mission of the Family*. Inspired by the original *Into the Breach* series dedicated to understanding the role of men, this new offering focuses on the battlefield that each family finds themselves in. Investigating topics such as life in the post-Christian world, finding healing, and the gift of children, each episode dives into how families can live out the Lord’s plan for their holiness through encouraging stories and testimonies.

With five short episodes and an accompanying study guide, this series is a fantastic opportunity to bring the families in your parish together to grow and learn. Whether it’s as a group study or independent learning, each episode further prepares families to bring Christ into their homes as they encounter the chaos of the world.

As the Christmas season comes to an end and we begin the New Year, consider how you can invite your parish families to renew their courage against culture and build up the foundations of love in their homes.



# LITURGICAL CALENDAR

This January, invite your parishioners to bring the liturgical calendar into their homes by observing these special days of our Church:

## January 1: The Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God

### *Mother of the Messiah | Lectio: Mary | Episode 3*

Enter the New Year with Our Lady by celebrating the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Encourage your parish to learn more about Mary with this episode of Lectio: Mary that reflects on her special vocation of motherhood. By examining Scripture and Tradition, viewers can better understand Mary's title as Mother of God and Mother of the Messiah.



## January 8: The Baptism of the Lord

### *The Baptism of the Lord*

In this special episode of FORMED Now, Dr. Michael Barber offers a brief lesson on the Baptism of the Lord. Investigating the words spoken by the God the Father and speaking on what Baptism means in the Church today, Dr. Barber gives intriguing insight on this solemnity that can invite your parishioners into more deeply living out their baptismal promises.

## January 22: Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

### *This Is God's Work: The Power of Prayer | Into Life*

As the Church dedicates January 22 to praying for the unborn, it is a good time to remember that prayer is the foundation and cornerstone for fighting against the culture of death. Presented by the Sisters of Life, this episode of Into Life focuses on how prayer must be the groundwork for our actions and efforts so that our society can reflect an authentic culture of life.



# FORMED FOR THE FAMILY

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

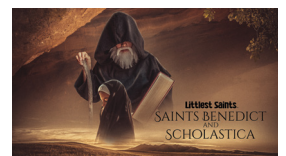


### *Zack and Yalla*

In this exciting new series on FORMED, follow Zack, a young shepherd boy, and his sheep Yalla as they encounter the story of Jesus' birth and learn many lessons along the way. This show, designed for young children, is a fantastic opportunity for parents to introduce the story of the Holy Family to their children through fun and engaging animation and storytelling.

### *Sts. Benedict and Scholastica | Littlest Saints*

The Littlest Saints series captures the lives of saints through the artful and creative storytelling of children. In this episode, kids can learn about two saints who were family: St. Benedict and St. Scholastica. Following their lives, viewers can learn about the beauty of holiness within the family and perseverance in faith.



### *The Wonderful World of Benjamin Cello*

With three seasons of exciting adventures and musical storytelling, Benjamin Cello is an engaging, entertaining show for kids of all ages. Whether it's journeying to Pennywhistle Park or reading in the Book Endless Book Tower, each episode reveals the importance and excitement of imagination and creativity while also sharing the goodness of virtue and faith in everyday life.

# CONTENT SPOTLIGHT

## The Catholic Parent

The responsibilities and tasks of every parent can be a lot to get through each day. Whether it is changing diapers or having difficult conversations with teenagers, parents can feel overwhelmed by the many demands.

Moreover, Catholic parents have the added role of being the primary formators in the faith for their children. Gathering children to get to Mass on time and incorporating daily prayer into their lives can, for many, feel even more daunting than anything else. And while there are plenty of parenting books or mom's groups to help parents manage the first group of responsibilities, it is more difficult to find authentic and practical resources for raising a family in the faith.

Enter *The Catholic Parent*, a collaboration between the Augustine Institute and Catholic Sprouts dedicated to sharing real stories from real Catholic parents. This stunning six-episode series reflects on the necessity of prayer, the sacraments, sacrifice, generosity, and faithfulness through the lens of the numerous challenges faced by the everyday parent.

Each episode features Catholic families who share the struggles and triumphs of daily life. With large and small families, families with younger and older children, and single-parent families, the

testimonies within the show reveal the rich diversity of families in the Church and reflect how a life seeking holiness is for everyone.

*The Catholic Parent* is designed to meet the needs of any parish. Whether your parish is looking to offer small groups or encourage families to watch on their own, this series can greatly benefit the lives of families in their communities and home lives. The series can also be adapted for parents of children seeking Baptism and First Holy Communion, supplemental religious education content, or adult faith formation programming.

This New Year, consider bringing your families together for community and support as they build up the domestic church with *The Catholic Parent*.



## DEVOTIONAL CONTENT



### Prayer | *Be Not Afraid Family Hour* | Episode 5

Renew prayer within the family with this episode of *Be Not Afraid Family Hour* dedicated to helping families invest in a relationship with the Lord. Listen as Fr. Joseph O'Connor discusses the challenges often encountered in prayer and how each person is invited to respond to these. Following this, families can come together in prayer with the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary.



# FORMED®

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