

Clergy Webinar Recap from November 10, 2020

Bishop Susan gathered the group in prayer. The focus of this session was planning creatively for Advent and Christmas, with Canon Mary Thorpe and Paris Ball, Minister for Christian Formation, as presenters.

Paris spoke of the curated list of resources for Advent and Christmas that are available on the OCF website. She also mentioned a great upcoming [webinar](#) (November 18th!) with Traci Smith, a noted leader in creative formation practices. Go to www.dovformation.net and you will find information quickly about Advent resources, Traci Smith's upcoming leadership seminar, and more that the Office of Formation has going on.

You can also be in touch with Paris directly at pball@thediocese.net and with Sierra Gore Kacher at sgore@thediocese.net.

Mary discussed a variety of resources, ranging from liturgical ideas/materials, adult and child formation resources, devotionals, and even virtual Christmas pageants. There was mention of "Advent in a Box" as a way to send something tactile and real to bring folks together in this season of waiting. She also mentioned how Blue Christmas services might be particularly helpful in this season when few of the usual touchpoints of our religious celebration of this season are available to us. There is much grief. She reminded everyone that simple is better than complicated, and there is no need to add to the stress trying to replicate everything that was "normal" before the pandemic. Mary invited anyone with questions to reach out to her at mthorpe@thediocese.net.

[Here's](#) the master list of resources and [here is](#) the OCF Curated Resources.

After the presentation, the attendees were invited into breakout rooms to talk through what they're doing and to brainstorm with each other.

There will be another clergy webinar NEXT WEEK (11/17/2020 at 4 pm) to discuss regathering plans and what the Eucharist Task Force is proposing as a safe way to do pastoral eucharistic visits.

Q&A

Will Advent in a Box be sent upon request by the families for free or is there a cost? If there is a cost, how much? *This is an online resource that you can use to create your own boxes, so it can be as elaborate or simple as you feel comfortable with. One thing you might consider, too, is doing a modified version of this for elderly and/or isolated parishioners who might really cherish having something to do to incarnate the season, such as putting together a paper chain of prayers for fellow parishioners and/or family members.*

Any Spanish-language Advent adult formation resources? *We believe that the TEC materials are available in Spanish; many of the Church Publishing ones are available in Spanish as well.*

Have you mentioned the new preaching podcast from TEC? *Yes, it's on the list: [Prophetic Voices: Preaching and Teaching Beloved Community](#), and it looks powerful.*

Are there Advent Prayers of the People for each of the 4 Sundays in Advent? *There is a great resource from Feasting on the Word – the Worship Companion provides prayers for each Sunday in Advent! ERD has some prayers of the people as well. Sundays and Seasons is a great resource as well.*