

Father's Notes

December 1, 2024

By the time you read this, you will likely already be aware that the funeral Mass for Kara Montplaisir (our Pastoral Assistant for Administration at St. Philomena for the past 14 years, and a parishioner for much longer) will be on Monday, December 2nd at 11:00am. Kara's presence and her skillset is greatly missed by those of us in the parish office, and by so many of you also.

In these weeks that we have had to adjust and adapt to do the work that had been Kara's, I'm so grateful for the wonderful staff that has been so helpful in stepping up. I'm also grateful for volunteers who have been so generous in offering their support. Please pray for us as we go about the task of finding a more long-term solution.

As we begin Advent, I want to encourage you to engage a resource to help keep you rooted in the season, to help keep focus on preparing for the coming of Christ, instead of getting swept up in what our culture's celebration of "the Holiday Season." More than just coming to Sunday Mass, I believe it's important to contemplate the meaning of Advent at least for a few minutes each day. I'll now direct you to two free online resources that I believe will be helpful. Both have offerings in both English and Spanish.

The first is through formed.org, which is available to you for free. Just sign up. You can access it through your computer, or you can download the app for your phone or tablet. In English, there's a program called Rooted: Rediscover the Jesse Tree. It's a 25-day journey that leads us to Christmas, that uses Scripture and the stories of our biblical ancestors who were awaiting their messiah, to find meaning in our own daily lives. On the formed.org site, if you do a search for "Advent", you'll find there's much more, including Advent related activities for the family.

On the formed.org website, if you do a search for Adviento, it will take you to a collection of short videos for adults (Reflexiones de Adviento) and also a collection for children (Los Dias del Adviento). You'll see, there's more.

The second resource I'll point you toward is through the Hallow app (for your phone or tablet). I strongly recommend this wonderful app, which is very helpful any time of year for reflection and meditation. When you sign up, you can opt for the free version.

This year's program, which will begin on December 2, is called For God so loved the world (Tanto amó Dios al mundo). There's a version in English and a version in Spanish. NOTE: On the main page of the app, scroll down to find Espanol.



Father Todd O. Strange (*Pastor*)

+ St. Philomena Parish & School (*Des Moines, WA*)

+ St. Thomas Parish (*Tukwila, WA*)