

## Picking a Format for Digital Drama

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At St. Dunstan's, we have experimented with three different ways of incorporating digital drama into our worship and parish life:

1. Live on Zoom
2. Scenes recorded separately and edited together into a video
3. Recorded on Zoom and shared as a video

The tips I share in this article pertain primarily **drama recorded using Zoom**. Here are some of the advantages to this style of digital drama:

1. It's possible to do longer and more ambitious things when you're recording, rather than live.
2. Some kids are less comfortable with "live" performance.
3. Zoom drama is less work for parents/families. Having families record a scene at home, in most cases, means more hands-on parent involvement. With Zoom drama, parents have to make sure kids print out their script & sit down at Zoom at the right time, but then I'm running things from then on. Parents generally haven't been on the call, except once or twice with very young actors.
4. Zoom drama is less work for whoever is editing and preparing the drama. Editing a Zoom recording to take out pauses or flubbed lines is a good bit less work than editing together multiple scenes filmed at home and sent to me.
5. As a person charged with the formation of these young people, I'm using the Zoom drama work as formation time. I correct pronunciations and cues and I am also checking in with their understanding of the story, what they think of it, what characters they identify with, etc. In the most recent example, we talked about what God might be asking us to be, do, or change, through the story.

All that being said, I would definitely do the **film-at-home style** again. You can [view our multi-scene Tale of St. Dunstan here](#). Here's why:

1. The households that participated in our St. Dunstan play had fun with it. (At least one non-churchgoing family member participated, too!)
2. There was more creative costuming and prop use, which was awesome. I think this would work especially well with a fairly familiar story and/or one that breaks into short chapters or scenes easily.
3. Inviting families to use the recording of their scene as an opportunity to reflect on the story together could be a lovely formation-at-home project.