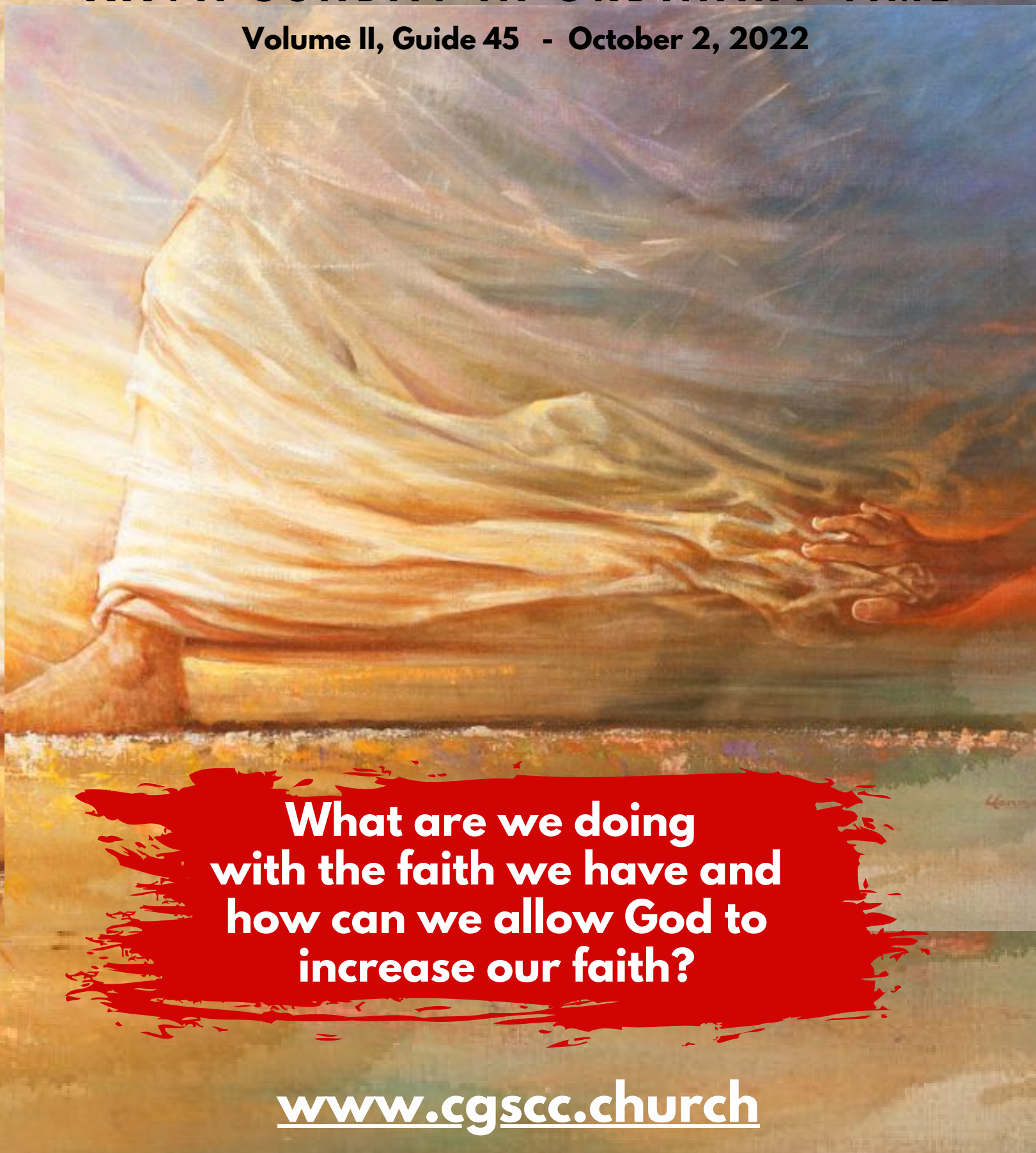
CGS FAMILY

XXVII SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Volume II, Guide 45 - October 2, 2022



What are we doing with the faith we have and how can we allow God to increase our faith?

www.cgscc.church

Welcome

HELLO,
CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD FAMILY!

Welcome to our weekly CGS Guide that helps our parish families to grow in knowledge of the faith and deepen our relationship with Jesus as his disciples. As we encounter Jesus, we come to know him, love him, and serve him so that we can be reasonably happy in this life and happy with him forever in heaven.

This Week

Faith as Reality

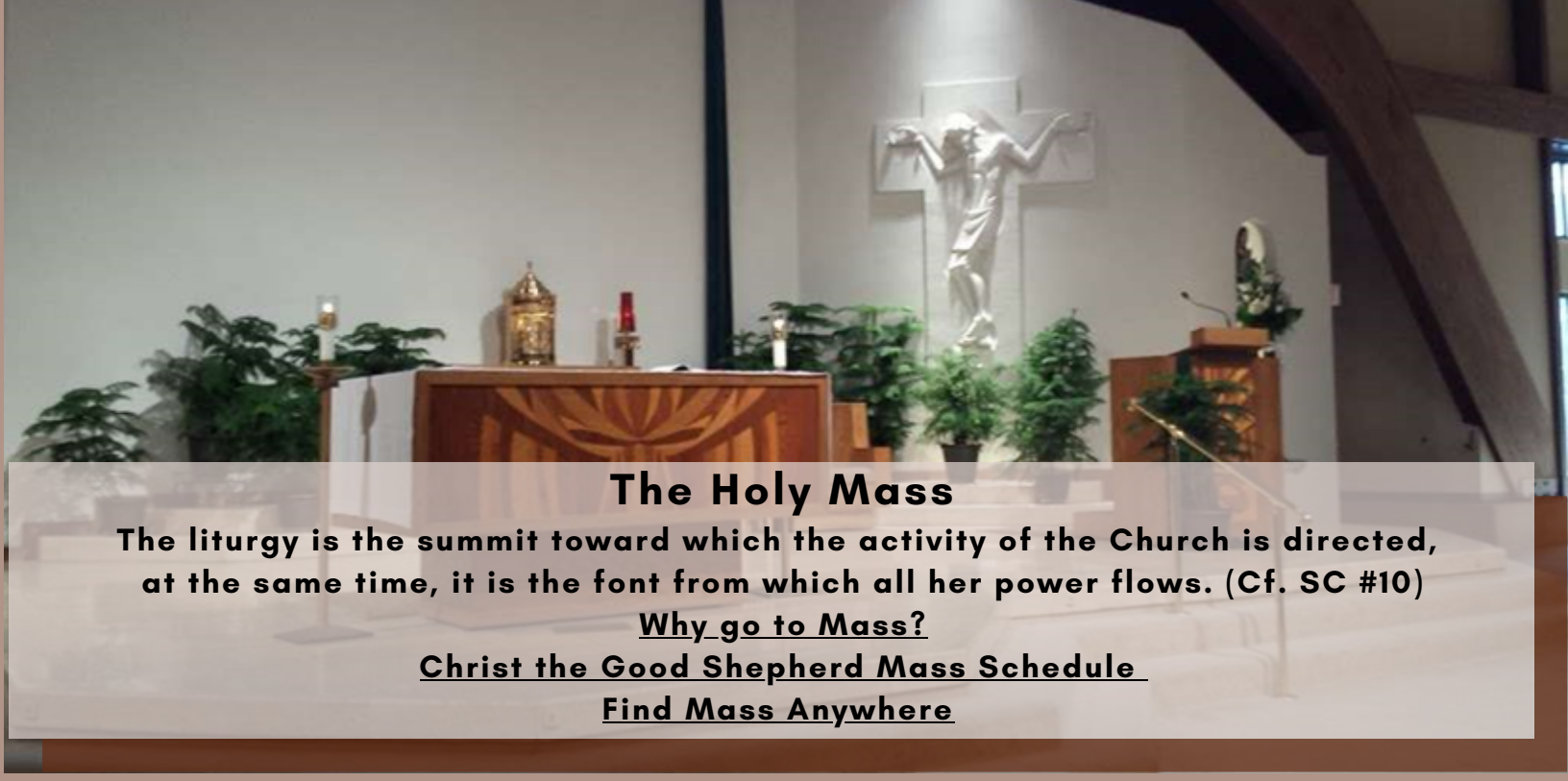
If you haven't ever looked at the Points of Understanding in the Resources section of our weekly Guide, this might be the week to read a few of them. Points of Understanding clearly state the Church's teaching, and in this case, what we believe about "faith" is especially well documented--most basically and importantly in the points from birth to 6th grade. Faith is a basic concept--not only because it forms the foundation of understanding everything else the Church teaches, but it impacts every decision we make in day-to-day life.

Faith and belief in God is not "make believe" or "opium of the masses" as philosopher Karl Marx once said. It's recognizing that the truest things there are cannot be seen or touched, yet they are just as real as any reality we can perceive with our senses. Love is real, but it cannot be quantified or measured. Courage is real, but it cannot be displayed, except in the life of a courageous person. Helen Keller once said, “The best and most beautiful things in this world cannot be seen or even heard, but must be felt with the heart.” Jesus Christ is not a subject to be learned, but a person to know. Let us ask him to increase our faith so that we may come to know and love him.

Ivana T. Meshell

For questions, comments, and feedback, please contact us at

DISCIPLESHIP@CGSCC.CHURCH



The Holy Mass

The liturgy is the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed, at the same time, it is the font from which all her power flows. (Cf. SC #10)

Why go to Mass?

Christ the Good Shepherd Mass Schedule

Find Mass Anywhere

This season, we are exploring the Big Idea

How does Jesus Christ Teach Us to Live a Moral Life?

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
Readings & Podcasts (Year C)
from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)

First Reading: Habakkuk 1: 2-3; 2: 2-4
Psalm 95: 1-2, 6-7, 8-9
Second Reading: 2 Timothy 1: 6-8, 13-14
Gospel: Luke 17: 5-10

Additional options for studying and discussing the Word of God:

Opening the Word by FORMED
Reflecting on the Sunday Readings
Sunday Connection by Loyola Press
Children's Liturgy of the Word by Catholic TV

WE LEARN & BECOME DISCIPLES TOGETHER

Question of the Week

What are we doing with the faith we have
and how can we allow God to increase our faith?

Opening Prayer

CONNECT with our GOD

- Let's start with the The Sign of Cross.
- In your own words, ask the Holy Spirit to be present as we gather so share our faith (Prayer to the Holy Spirit).
- Listen to the Lord speaking to you as someone reads out loud the Gospel for this Sunday (see previous page for links to Scripture readings for this week).
- Listen to each other as everyone shares what in the Gospel caught their attention.
- Pray the "Glory be..."

More on how to manage a group discussion.

Getting Started

How to use this Guide.

Why are we doing this?

Step One

CONNECT with our daily LIVES

What are some ways that you show your faith in Christ?

Using this Guide can be as simple or as "in depth" as you want. If you do only the opening prayer section, that's great! To go deeper, follow the steps as shown. For children, see "Resources," page 8.

Step Two

CONNECT with Scripture and Tradition

As a domestic church (your household) or Small Faith Group, pray and read through some of the following (you can select) Scriptures & Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) references as time permits.

In the HOLY SCRIPTURE we read:

- Even if we believe, we can still ask the Lord to strengthen our belief. Mark 9:24
- We live by Faith not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7
- Faith being tested brings perseverance and strength. James 1:3

In the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC), we read:

- Faith is a free gift from God. #162
- Enrich your faith with Sacred Scripture and Tradition. #84
- Service is rooted in Faith. #876
- By faith "man freely commits his entire self to God." #1814

Discussion Questions

1. What do you think people mean when they say "I lost my faith" or "I am losing my faith?"
2. Can you think of someone who you think has a strong faith in God?
3. How is your faith during difficult times?
4. How does overcoming trials in life strengthen your faith?

Want more? Go Deeper!

Reflection Question

When I make choices, do I make them with my faith in Christ or in people?

RESOURCES FOR ALL AGES

For related information, activities, and age-appropriate resources, turn to the *Resources for All Ages* section of this Guide. You may use as many or as few as you want to. Adapt to your situation and your household. You can even spread these activities over the span of the entire week. There is no wrong way to do this!

Step Three

CONNECT with OTHERS...
Living the Gospel with commitment & action.

What is one thing you are willing to change in your life so that you can grow in your faith and be a living witness to the love and mercy of Jesus?

Practical Activities

For the Individual

Time in The Word

Challenge yourself to grow in your faith through the Holy Scriptures. Use suggested readings from the guides or find a bible reading plan that you can follow. When you listen to God through the bible, you will feel more confident to share His Word with others.

For Couples

Couples Gathering

Gather with other couples from church or your neighborhood to share your faith together. Maybe share a meal, a prayer and talk about how God is working in your family. For help, contact Teams of Our Lady at our parish, Dora Carranza.

For the Domestic Church

Meal Time Challenge

With busy schedules, it may be difficult to gather together for a meal at home but find a night and put it on the calendar. Make it fun by cooking together and sharing old family recipes. Take time to pray together and share something from your childhood faith journey with your children.

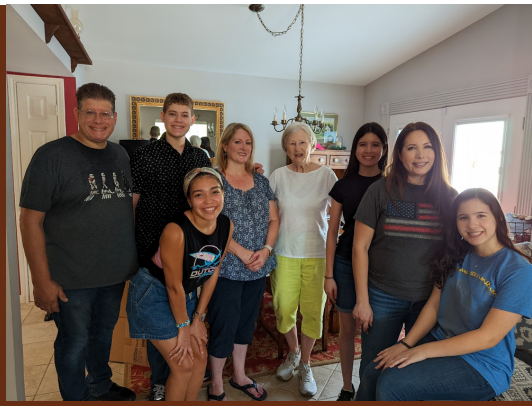
Missionary Mindset

Random Act of Kindness

Write out some encouraging bible verses and inspirational quotes and leave them to help brighten someone's day. (Place them on a desk, taped to a door, on a car windshield, etc.) You could be the reminder that someone needs that God loves them. Spread His joy!

Community Service Saturday

All families/members of Christ the Good Shepherd
are invited on Saturday October 8th, 8:30am-3:00pm
Light Breakfast and lunch provided.
Please sign up online by clicking the link above.
Questions? Contact Dawn Leal or Dcn.Lolo at the Parish Office



What are we doing with the faith we have and how can we allow God to increase our faith?

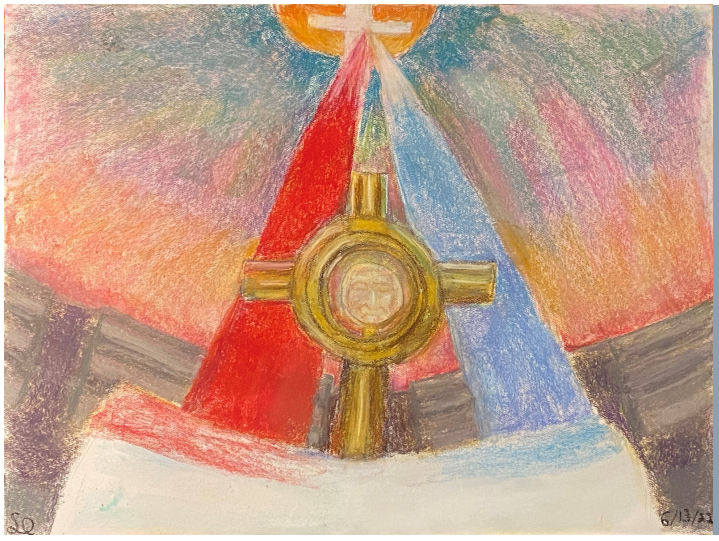
Closing Prayer

- We sign ourselves with the Sign of Cross.
- According to what we reflected on, or whatever is in my heart share a petition, at the end we all say: ***Lord hear our prayer.***
- Then we can pray the Our Father, Hail Mary and the Glory be...
- As we finish, let us share a sign of peace with each other.

Prayer:
ACT OF FAITH

O my God, I firmly believe that you are one God in three divine Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I believe that your divine Son became man and died for our sins and that he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe these and all the truths which the Holy Catholic Church teaches because you have revealed them who are eternal truth and wisdom, who can neither deceive nor be deceived. In this faith I intend to live and die. Amen.

The Finisher of Faith --Sandra Crittenden



Join us for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Come as you are. Bring your family.
We need prayer.
There are several opportunities each week.
See the schedule on our parish website.

AT THE END OF THE LESSON OR END OF THE WEEK

From what you have learned, how would you now answer the Question of the Week?
What are we doing with the faith we have and how can we allow God to increase our faith?

RESOURCES FOR ALL AGES

POINTS OF UNDERSTANDING

Clear statements of the Church's teachings
Where they come from and ways to use them.

1. Age-Specific Resources

Early Childhood (Ages 3-5)

Question: How big is your faith? How do we show Jesus we love him? How would other's know we love Jesus?
"Seeds" by Pflaum Publishing**.**
Gospel Kids//Have Faith in God -- Video (2:43)

Childhood (Elementary, Grades 1-5)

Question: How big is your faith? How do we show Jesus we love him? How would other's know we are Catholic Christians?
Grades K-1: "**Promise**" by Pflaum Publishing and
Grades 2,3 &4: "**Good News**" by Pflaum Publishing.
Gospel Kids//Have Faith in God -- Video (2:43)

Early Adolescence (Jr.High, Grades 6-8)

Question: What are some ways that you show your faith in Christ?
Grades 5 & 6: **"Venture"** and Grades 7 & 8: "**Visions**" by Pflaum Publishing.
Ascension Presents // Faith is Not Something You can Lose -- video (10:07)
Ascension Presents // How to Question Your Faith Well -- video (10:19)

Adolescence (High School, Grades 9-12)

Question: What are some ways that you show your faith in Christ?
Ascension Presents// Keep Your Faith Alive and Growing -- video (7:04)
Ascension Presents // Mastering the Basics of Faith -- video (9:41)
LifeTeen // Growing in Faith -- blog

HELPFUL TIPS!
Create a prayer table or space.
Faith Groups at CGS

Age-Specific Resources for Parents

Age-specific materials for early childhood through 8th grade are now available for you to use along with this Guide.

They are easy to use. The cost is $25.00 per set, per year.

Reserve and pick up your copies by contacting Jackie Coba in the parish office or by email. 346.236.6459 ex. 342 or jcoba@cgscc.church

Have you ever wanted explain how Catholic beliefs effect how you see the world?
We have a class for YOU!

Studies in Spirituality, Catholic Beliefs, Morality and more offered by the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston!
For more information follow the link to FTCM or contact discipleship@cgscc.church

What are we doing with the faith we have and how can we allow God to increase our faith?

Adulthood

Catholic Exchange// Growing in Faith -- blog
Catholic.org // 7 Paths for Growing in Your Spiritual Life -- blog
Bishop Robert Barron // What Faith Is and Isn't -- video (11:01)
Bishop Robert Barron // Faith When Frustrated With God -- video (13:08)
My Catholic Life // Faith During the Storms of Life--article.

Prayer in Support of Human Life

Eternal God, creator and sustainer of life,
bless us with the courage to defend all life
from conception to natural death.
Bless us with the strength
to respect all peoples
from east to west, from north to south,
so that we may truly follow
the call of Jesus to be neighbor.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever.
Amen.

2. General Resources

The Holy Bible

Online Bible via the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)
If you don't know much about the Bible or want to learn more: **Scripture Support**

Catholics use the **New American Bible Revised Edition** (NABRE) as the translation for Mass readings. There are many acceptable versions of NABRE (learn more) as well as other approved translations. You may purchase from any vendor and we do have some basic editions on hand at the parish office at no charge—available upon request.

Recommended Print Bibles

These are all by St. Mary's Press: Order directly from the publisher or search online for other vendors.

Catholic Family Connections Bible (digital version available)
Catholic Youth Bible (Adolescents & College)
"Breakthrough" (Early Adolescents //Jr. High)
Catholic Children's Bible

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC)

Online Catechism via the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)
NEW! Simplified version of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*
If you don't know much about the Catechism or want to learn more: *Catechism Support*

Formed Online

Our parish subscribes to a library of online resources called Formed. It is excellent and it is free for you to use. Register at www.formed.org - Need help? Watch this video.

What are we doing with the faith we have and how can we allow God to increase our faith?

Common Prayers and Formulas to Learn by Heart

Familiar Prayers
and
a chart showing at what age level they should be learned.

Prayers and Praying

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) // Prayer and Devotions.

Counseling, Grief Support & Spiritual Direction

- Our parish offers Rejoice Counseling for individuals and families for a variety of issues and needs. You may use this online form to contact them directly.
- We also offer Grief Support ministry for those who have lost loved ones and Spiritual Direction for anyone interested. Follow the links or inquire through the parish office.

"Our vocation is to embrace the hearts of all men, to do what the Son of God did, he who came into the world to set it on fire. It is true therefore that I am sent not only to love God but to make him loved. It is not enough to love God if my neighbor does not love him."
- St. Vincent de Paul (XII 262).

Music to Move You

Catholic Christian Choral Music // Like a Shepherd--video (2:58)
Elevation Worship // Give Me Faith--video (4.58)
Danny Gokey // Rise (from the album)--video (3:40)
Mercy Me // Even If--video (4:15)

Sacred Art to Inspire You!

All Sacred Art Currently on Formed (parish subscription free to our parishioners--register once, get access to all content) All Sacred Art - FORMED
Krysten Brown // The Solemnity of Mary--print.
Walter Rane // Add to Your Faith Virtue--print.
Sheila Diemert // Collection of Contemporary Art.

Esther's Call by Kathy Hadden

3. Sacramental Information

Visit the sacraments section of our parish website to find everything you need to get started with any sacrament. Information is being continually updated. Contact our parish office if you have a question.

What are we doing with the faith we have and how can we allow God to increase our faith?

WE ARE THE CHURCH

What Makes us Catholic?

Magnanimity

"If someone asked you what the most essential virtues are, you might say humility, faith, hope, or love. But have you ever heard of the virtue of magnanimity? What this virtue does is it magnifies—or makes greater—other virtues within someone. In other words, it's to strive for excellence."

This is not to be confused with the vice of pride, which relies on the gifts of oneself without acknowledging any help that may come from another person or even God. Instead, a magnanimous person sees the gifts God has given them and chooses to emphasize them in their life as a way to honor him.

HOW HAVE YOU SEEN GOD PRESENT AND ACTIVE IN YOUR LIFE THIS WEEK?

Word of the Week - Theological Virtues

The theological virtues are faith, hope, and love (charity). They orient man to God, allowing him to participate in God's own Trinitarian, divine life. They provide the foundation for the Christian's entire moral life because they guide, direct, and give life to all other virtues. These virtues are gifts given to us by God freely and it is up to us to decide whether or not we want to accept and use them.

Saints of the Month

Book Suggestions

More for your Domestic Church

A Domestic Church is your household of believers in Jesus Christ. View a short video on what is the Domestic Church. See also this reference in the Catechism of the Catholic Church: CCC 1655-1858 and our Glossary of Terms. There is so much at CGS for your Domestic Church! See our website, social media pages, YouTube, and this week "**FLOCKNOTE**" for all things CGS!

"Faith Groups" on our Website

Find resources for your family, including how to use this Guide, family traditions from other parishioners, FAQs, how to use the Points of Understanding, a Glossary of Terms and more. Visit cgsccdogh.org/faith-groups OR scan the QR code on the right with your smart phone.
Join a small Faith Group in our parish. Contact **discipleship@cgscc.church**

What are we doing with the faith we have and how can we allow god to increase our faith?

Our Mission as a Roman Catholic Community is to proclaim the teachings of Jesus Christ as declared in the scriptures and shown in the sacred tradition of the church. We are empowered by the Holy Spirit to know, love, and serve God and our neighbors.

WE WANT OUR PARISHIONERS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THIS GUIDE!

How is this Guide working for you and your family?
Show us what your family is doing with these Guides!
Share an idea, a resource or picture/video of what you are doing in your Domestic Church.

DISCIPLESHIP@CGSCC.CHURCH

"HELPING PEOPLE TO KNOW AND LOVE JESUS CHRIST."

Text CGS to 84576 to join us on Flocknote
You will receive emails & texts from CGS

CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

@CGSYOUTH

18511 Klein Church Rd. Spring, TX 77379
(281) 376-6831
Very Reverend James Burkart, Pastor

The contents of this Guide are in accordance with the teachings of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Curriculum Framework for Lifelong Faith Formation of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston under the pastoral care of Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, Archbishop.

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