

CGS FAMILY

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Volume III, Guide 7, January 8, 2023



**Where do we see the person
of Christ in our world?**

www.cgscchurch.com

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

Jesus is a Person to Know

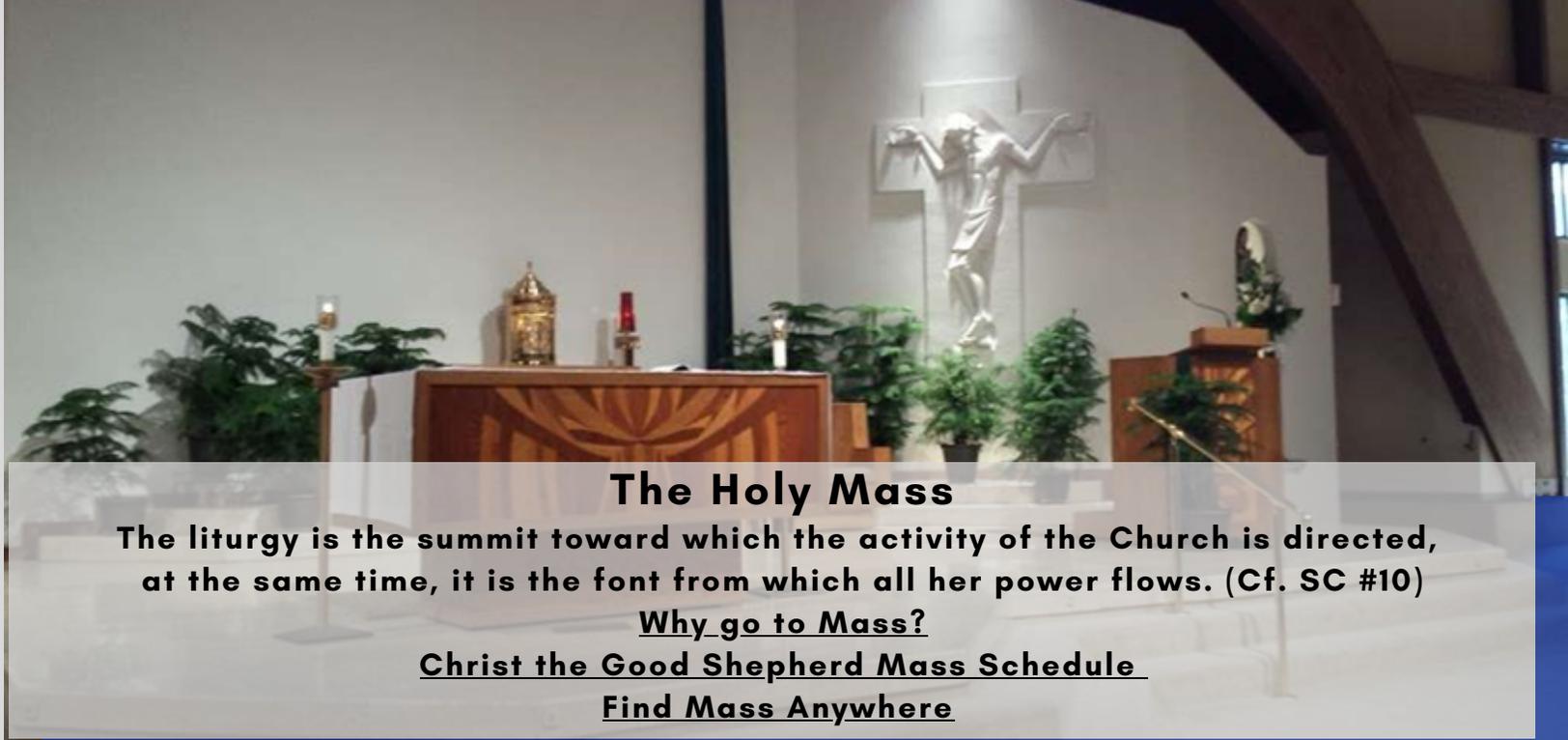
What do you think of when you think of "Christianity?" Many think of it as a series of doctrines or rules, maybe as a certain type of religion with particular actions and expectations associated with it. To some degree, these things are true; but Christianity is not primarily a subject to be learned or a set of rules to follow, but a person to know. Christianity is, above all, a relationship with the person of Jesus Christ. Yet how does one come to know a person he or she cannot see? The manger scene at Christmas gives us a clue: Jesus is with those who are lowly, who are not proud and self-sufficient, he most closely identifies with the poor and those who realize they need God. Christ is with those who are materially poor and those who are poor in spirit, "for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven" (Matthew 5:3).

If we want to get closer to Jesus, we must learn to love what he loves and embrace what he embraces. The question comes to mind: "Where do we see Christ in our world today?" We see Jesus especially in the poor, but also in our enemies, our family, our marriages, friendships, in sinners, in disagreeable people, in those who are suffering, and in anyone with whom we cross paths. It is for us, as his disciples, to go towards these people, to discover the presence of Christ in those around us. We can only love Jesus to the degree that we love others. Christians of all ages are called to do this through our baptism. At the beginning of this New Year, and in this Guide, let us explore ways in which we can be the hands and the heart of Christ to others so that his love is made manifest to all the world.

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

**WE CELEBRATE JESUS CHRIST PRESENT IN GOD'S WORD,
IN WORSHIP, AND IN THE SACRAMENTS OF HIS HOLY CHURCH**

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

Readings & Podcasts (Year A)

from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)

First Reading: Isaiah 60: 1-6

Psalm 72: 1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13

Second Reading: Ephesians 3: 2-3, 5-6

Gospel: Matthew 2: 1-12

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

Where do we see the person of Christ in our world?

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.](#)

Step One

CONNECT with our daily LIVES

Where do I see the face of God?
Who shows me the face of God?

All
underlined
text is
linked!
Just click!

Getting
Started

[How to use
this Guide.](#)

[Why are we
doing this?](#)



[Light of the World Nativity –
by Br Mickey McGrath OSFS on Fine Art America](#)

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:

- Do you not realize that Jesus Christ is in you? **II Corinthians 13:5.**
- If someone who has worldly means sees a brother in need and refuses him compassion, how can the love of God remain in him? **I John 3:17.**
- ...all of you, be of one mind, sympathetic, loving toward one another, compassionate, humble. **I Peter 3:8.**

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

- God blesses those who come to the aid of the poor **#2443.**
- The Church knows that the Lord comes even now in his Eucharist and that he is there in our midst **#1404.**
- The importance of being attentive to the needs of others **#1039.**

Discussion Questions

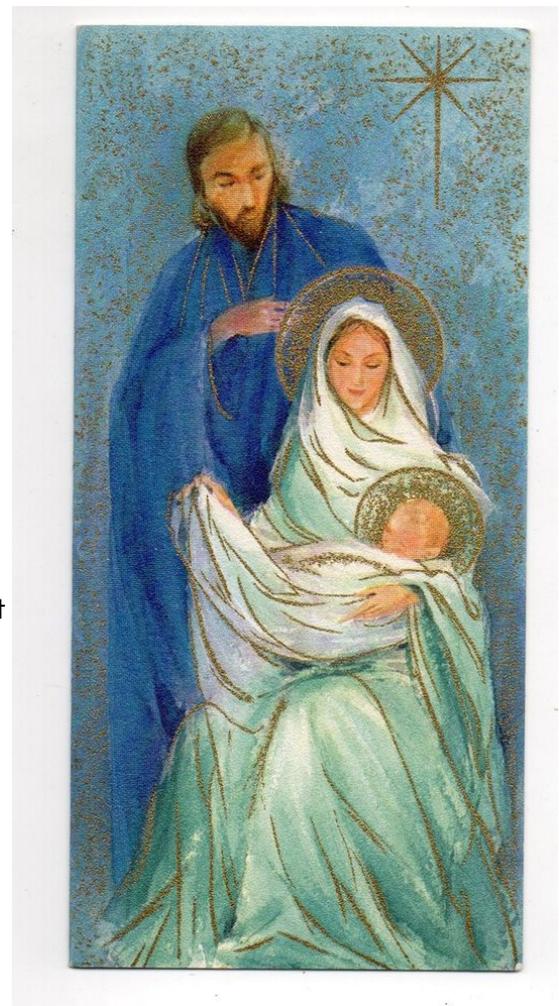
Each person, upon death, will be judged on how well he or she has accepted the love and grace God offers. The primary way in which people show forth their acceptance or rejection of God's love is evident in the way they treat other people, especially those who are the most poor or vulnerable. (Points of Understanding, Grade 5, 1.3.9.)

1. Why is it important to look for the presence of Christ in other people?
2. What keeps us from recognizing God's presence in ourselves, in one another, and in our world?
3. God is also present in the community. In what ways is God present in our community now?
4. How can we welcome Christ's presence and thank him for being with us?

Want more? Go Deeper!

Reflection Question

Does my life reflect my belief that God is present in our world?



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 do to lift people up this week?

Practical Activities

For the Individual

Hold Back Bad Words--Speak the Good Ones!

It is so easy to tear people down with unkind, unthoughtful words.

Make an effort to listen care, say the things people need to hear--things that will really help them (See Ephesians 4:29). Don't waste words on tearing people down. Lift them up instead!

For Couples

Look for Christ in Your Spouse

Identify a way you can look for Christ in your spouse today. In what ways is he or she "weak" or "poor"--lacking strength, wisdom, or ability? How can you show compassion to your spouse in their need? In what ways can you support him or her, bearing lovingly with the other's weaknesses for the sake of Christ?

For the Domestic Church

Practice Being Unselfish

Sometimes it takes extra effort to be respectful and generous with the people we live with. It is easy to overlook the love we should show for them in the little things of everyday life. Be less selfish and more gracious. Let someone know by the way you treat him or her that they are an important part of your life.

Missionary Mindset

Care for Those in Need After the Holidays

During the holidays, people in need often get more attention that they ordinarily would at any other time of the year, yet people continue to be in need in January. Talk with Dcn. Lolo in our Social Service Ministry about ways your family can continue to care for Jesus, present in those in need even after the holidays are over.

Strong
people
don't put
others
down...



They lift them up.

[Learn to Lift People Up!](#)



Bring Your Bible to Mass!

Word of God Sunday

Bring your bibles to be blessed at all Masses the weekend of January 21-22.



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.

Collect

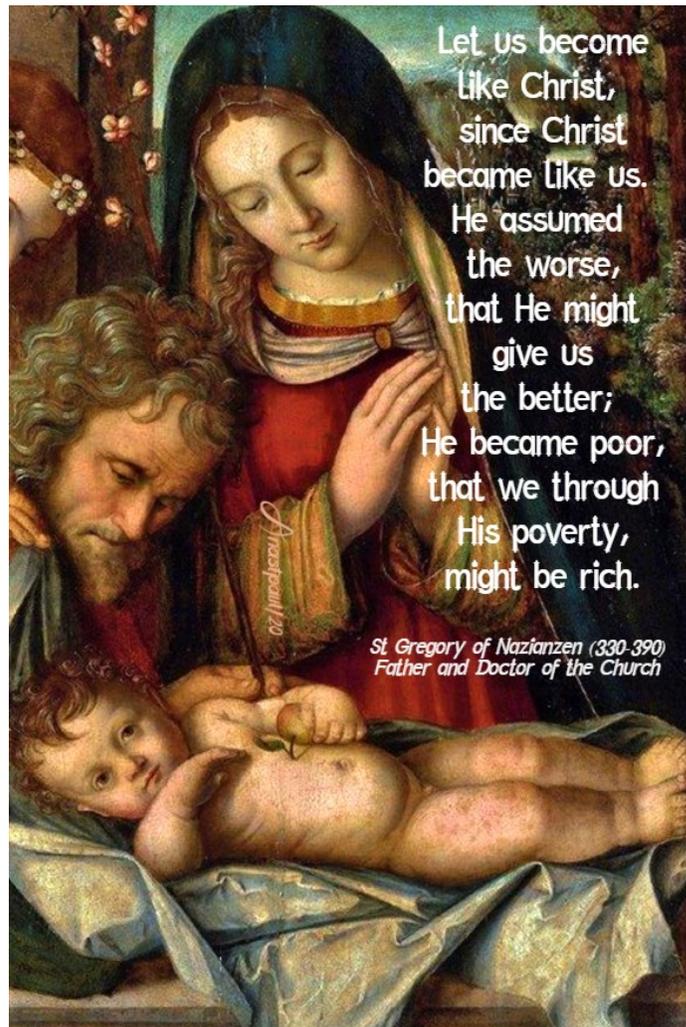
Opening prayer of the Mass

Epiphany of the Lord

Sunday, January 8, 2023

O God, who on this day revealed your Only Begotten Son to the nations by the guidance of a star, grant in your mercy that we, who know you already by faith, may be brought to behold the beauty of your sublime glory. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

For Mass During the Day



Join us for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Come as you are. Bring your family. We need prayer.

[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?

Where do we see the person of Christ in our world?

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 can we be the light of Christ to others?

"Seeds" by Pflaum Publishing.

My Time with Jesus // Ep. 28 - Epiphany. (25:18)

Childhood (Elementary, Grades 1-5)

Question: How can we be the light of Christ to others?

Grades K-1: "**Promise**" by Pflaum Publishing and

Grades 2,3 &4: "**Good News**" by Pflaum Publishing.

My Time with Jesus // Ep. 28 - Epiphany. (25:18)

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

Question: How can we be Christlike towards others?

Grades 5 & 6: "**Venture**" by Pflaum Publishing

Grades 7 & 8: "**Visions**" by Pflaum Publishing.

Ascension Presents // How to be a Good Disciple of Christ-- video (8:02)

Ascension Presents // What's so Different about these Christians? -- video (6:43)

Life Teen // Evangelizing with Anxiety. -- blog

Adolescence (High School, Grades 9-12)

Question: How can we be Christlike towards others?

Ascension Presents // How to be a Good Disciple of Christ-- video (8:02)

Ascension Presents // What's so Different about these Christians? -- video (6:43)

Life Teen // Evangelizing with Anxiety. -- blog

Life Teen // Seeing God in the Everyday. -- 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@cgsgc.church

All
underlined
text is
linked!
Just click!



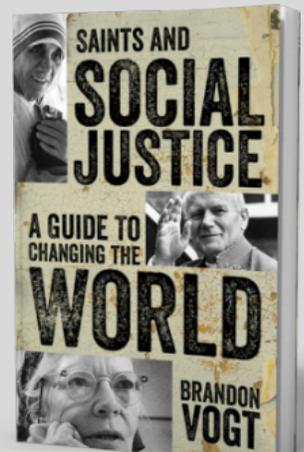
Adulthood

Brandon Vogt, Word on Fire // Jesus in his most Distressing Disguise--article.
John Cavadini, Church Life Journal // The Eucharist Commits Us to the Poor--article.

Sister Theresa Aletheia Noble, FSP // Five Ways Jesus Dealt with Difficult People--article.

Father Vincent Hawksell // Love Your Neighbour by Seeing Christ in Each Other-- article

Catholic Campus Ministries at Penn State // Seeing Christ in Others -- article
T.S. Eliot // Journey of the Magi--Poem



[The Saints and Social Justice](#)
by [Brandon Vogt](#)
[Learn more!](#)

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.

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.

Common Prayers and Formulas to Learn by Heart

and [a chart showing at what age level they should be learned.](#)

Prayers and Praying

Catholic Online // [A Prayer for Church Unity](#) -- prayer

Simply Catholic // [Christ's Prayer for Unity](#) - article
Cameron Bellm // [A Prayer for the Feast of Epiphany](#).

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

Edward Burne-Jones // [The Adoration of the Magi](#)

Kristyn Brown // [The Solemnity of Mary](#)

Our Catholic Life // [Epiphany of the Lord](#) (Together with reflections for the day).

Catholic Exchange // Scripture Speaks: [Epiphany of our Lord](#)

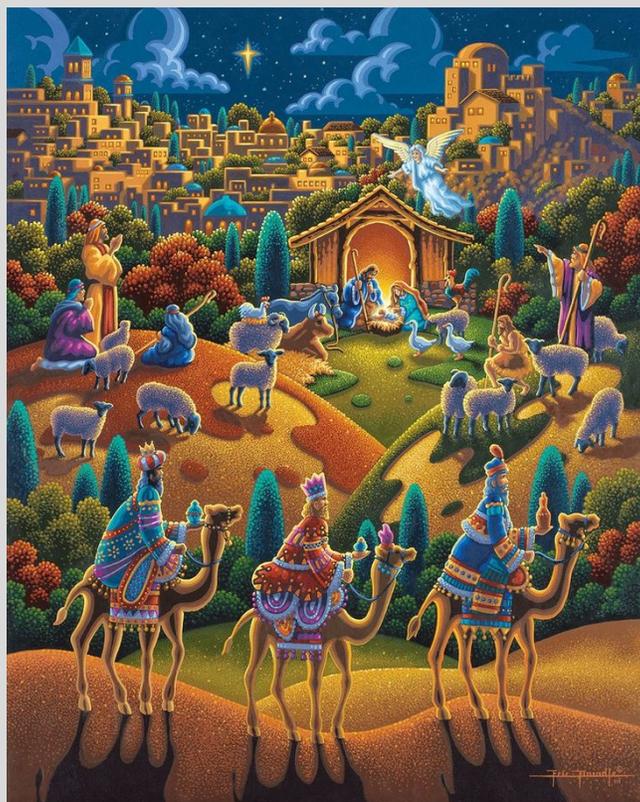
Music to Move You

Jeremy Camp // [Christ in Me](#) -- Video (3:37)

Vince Gill // [Let There Be Peace on Earth](#) -- Audio (4:33)

Sunday 7pm Choir // [I Received the Living God](#) -- Video (4:14)

Brandon Heath // [Give Me Your Eyes](#) -- Video (4:02)



Nativity
by
Eric Dowdle

3. Sacramental Information & Becoming Catholic!

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.

WE ARE THE CHURCH

What Makes us Catholic? The Body Christ

When we receive Holy Communion, the Eucharistic Minister says, "The Body of Christ." What most of us do not stop and think about is that the Eucharistic Minister is giving the Body of Christ (the true presence of Christ in the bread and wine) to the Body of Christ (the Church). Saint Paul provides an expansive theological explanation of the Church is the body of Christ, who is its head ([Colossians 1:18](#), [Ephesians 1:22-23](#)). The members of the body have different functions, as a hand differs from a foot or an eye, but they all belong to the same body ([Romans 12:4-8](#), [1 Corinthians 12: 4-31](#), [Ephesians 4:11-14](#)) therefore should all strive for unity.*

*Catholic Bible Dictionary, Scott Hahn General Editor



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

Word of the Week - **Anawim**

Anawim (pronounced ann-a-weem) is a Hebrew word from the Old Testament which describes the "poor ones" who remained faithful to God in times of difficulty. These humble people became known as the Anawim or the "faithful remnant." [Learn more!](#)

Book Suggestions

Saints of the Month by Jeremy Hearne



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 cgscddogh.org/faith-groups OR scan the QR code on the right with your smart phone. Join a small Faith Group in our parish or tell us about a group you are already a part of. Contact discipleship@cgscchurch





Christ the Good Shepherd
Catholic Community
Vision Statement

Building a community of love and
hope by putting our faith into action.

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 according to your preferences.



CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC COMMUNITY



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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.