

# CGS FAMILY

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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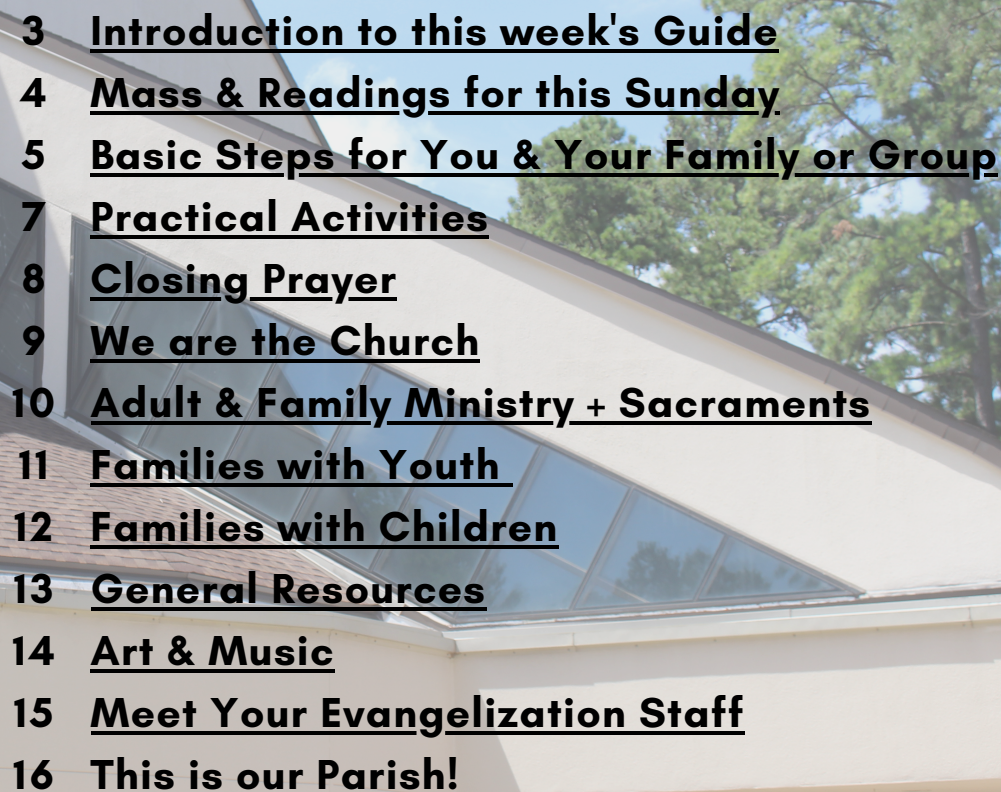


How am I being a  
faith-filled citizen?

[www.cgscchurch.org](http://www.cgscchurch.org)



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**All underlined text in  
this Guide is linked!  
Just click!**



**How is this Guide working for you and your household or small group?**

Share a resource, activity, or picture/video of what you are doing in your Domestic Church.

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

**[discipleship@cgscc.church](mailto:discipleship@cgscc.church)**



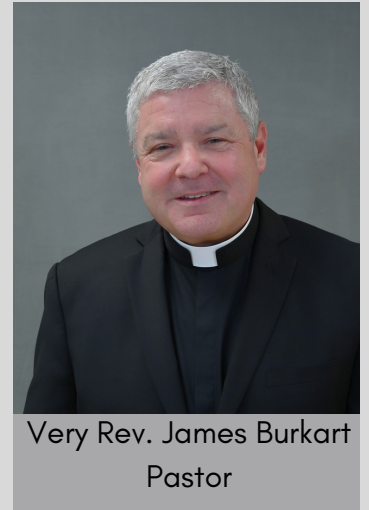
# Welcome

## 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

### FROM Caesar TO God



What are the things of Caesar and what are the things of God? The Pharisees – who are the leading interpreters of God’s law in the day of Jesus – want to trap Jesus in a political situation with Rome. But we all know that Jesus cares nothing about politics. Jesus cares about God and the things of God. So, rather than enter into the political trick that was presented to Him, Jesus prefers to turn the tables on the Pharisees. He redirects their attention FROM Caesar TO God. Where they should be more concerned anyway. It is as important a question in Jesus’ day as it is today. With what do we concern ourselves? Do we allow ourselves to be overly concerned with the things of this world? Or do we keep our attention on God and the things of God. Do we allow our call to be a good citizen of the United States to become an obsession that overwhelms us and our faith in God? If we are married, do we keep our married relationship focused on God and the things of God, since we know that what God wants for us is always better than what we want for ourselves? If we have a family, are we helping our family to understand how we are called to live in the world, but not be dominated by it?

Though we live in the world, we are not conformed to this world, but rather – the truth of God. St. Paul in his Letter to the Romans says, “Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect” (Romans 12:2). The Church even tries to help us with the verse that it uses for our Gospel response today. It comes from St. Paul’s Letter to the Philippians (2:15d,16a). St. Paul tells us to “Shine like lights in the world as you hold on to the word of life.” This Sunday’s Gospel is an opportunity for us to take a step back and reflect on how much we allow the world to control us. In our final prayer for Mass this week, we say, “Grant, O Lord, we pray, that, benefitting from participation in heavenly things, we may be helped by what you give in this present age and prepared for the gifts that are eternal.”

**Very Rev. James Burkart**

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



## **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**

**A Message About Mass to the Parents of Young Children**

**We come to know, love, and serve Jesus Christ.**

**Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

readings and podcasts, Year A

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)

First Reading: Isaiah 45: 1, 4-6

Psalm 96: 1, 3, 4-5, 7-8, 9-10

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1: 1-5

Gospel: Matthew 22: 15-21



PAULUS MEDIA & CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC CHURCH

PRESENTS

**This Weeks Gospel Message from Fr. James Burkart**  
**Reflecting on the Sunday Readings**  
**Sunday Connection**



# WE LEARN & BECOME DISCIPLES TOGETHER

## Getting Started

Why are we doing this?

How to manage a group discussion.

## HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE



## Question of the Week

How am I being a faith filled citizen?

### CONNECT with our GOD through Prayer

- Let's start with the The Sign of Cross.
- As we gather to share our faith, ask the Holy Spirit to be present. Use your own words or offer a Prayer to the Holy Spirit.
- As someone reads out loud the Gospel for this Sunday, listen to the Lord speaking to you.
- Listen to one other as everyone shares what in the Gospel caught their attention.
- Pray the Collect--opening prayer of Sunday Mass.

Family life is the first place where children learn how to pray as the Church. Through family prayer, children experience the first witness of Christ's living memory.

Points of Understanding  
Grade 3, #4.4.1

### CONNECT with our daily LIVES

What are the "things of this world" that keep me from living my daily life for God and His will for me?



## WHAT IS THE CHURCH'S TEACHING?

### POINTS OF UNDERSTANDING

Where they come from and ways to use them.



Choose from among the following Scriptures and teachings for reading, prayer, and discussion.

#### **In the HOLY SCRIPTURE we read:**

- We are called to be in this world, but not of this world. Romans 12:2
- Paul tells to shine like lights in the world as we hold on to the word of life. Philippians 2:15-16
- "Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father." Matthew 5:16

#### **In the Catechism of the Catholic Church**

- Duties of civil authorities and of citizens toward them. #1897-1904, 2235-2237,
- Only Christ is Lord, to whom we make ultimate submission. "Idolatry" of state when treated as ultimate. #450, 2113

Our redemption has a social dimension because "God, in Christ, redeems not only the individual person, but also . . . social relations." To believe that the Holy Spirit is at work in everyone means realizing that he seeks to penetrate every human situation and all social bonds. . . . Accepting the first proclamation, which invites us to receive God's love and to love him in return with the very love which is his gift, brings forth in our lives and actions a primary and fundamental response: to desire, seek and protect the good of others.  
(Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 178)

### **Discuss**

1. Do I get caught up in the expectations of society?
2. How is God calling me to live out the gospel in my community?
3. What are ways that we can be the hands and feet of Christ in this world?

**Want more? Go Deeper!**

Forming consciences for Faithful Citizenship



### **Reflection Question**

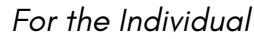
How can I "put shoes on the Gospel" so that I shine brightly and lead others to Christ?





**Living the Gospel with commitment & action.**

## Practical Activities



If you know someone who has shown courage in respecting and defending life at any of its stages, thank them this week for their testimony of life.



Together as a couple, talk about concrete ways that you can work together to support each other in being good citizens so “to give to Caesar what belongs to Cesar”, and to see how you can “give to God what belongs to God”.



As a family, watch the news together and pay special attention to the injustices that are deeply rooted in our culture. As a family, talk about what you discover and decide to take positive action in response.



This week, let's honor the sacredness of the created world by living more simply on this earth. Make a list of eco-friendly practices that can be adopted to reduce waste and avoid the deception of consumerism.

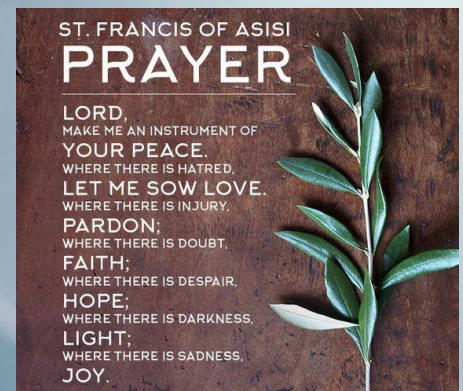


For more ideas on how to build your home as a Domestic Church, go to: [www.domestic-church.com](http://www.domestic-church.com) or visit *The Family Fully Alive*, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, or [Tools for Building a Domestic Church](#) by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).



## 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.



**"Let us pray that families grow closer together, and together, closer to God." Fr. James**

**Embracing Father,  
You grace each of us with equal measure in your love.  
Let us learn to love our neighbors more deeply,  
so that we can create  
peaceful and just communities.  
Inspire us to use our creative energies  
to build the structures we need  
to overcome the obstacles  
of intolerance and indifference.  
May Jesus provide us the example needed  
and send the Spirit to warm our hearts for the journey.  
Amen**

Source: USCCB

## 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?

**How am I being a faith filled citizen?**



# WE ARE THE CHURCH

## What Makes us Catholic? The Cardinal of Virtue - Justice

Justice is the cardinal virtue that perfects our will and all our relationships with others, including family, country, and Church. It is the constant and firm will to give to each what is his due. It disposes us to respect the rights and dignity of others, leading to harmony and equality in human interactions. Justice toward God is the virtue of religion. The just Christian is motivated by charity, a sincere will to not only give to others what is their due, but to will the good from them.

2013 Education in Virtue | L-JU.SC



## Word of the Week - Reverence

Many of us assume that reverence and piety are synonymous, but in fact piety is a means toward reverence. Reverence is the awe and respect one expresses in God's presence. In the past, it was often called "Fear of the Lord" (Proverbs 9:10), one of the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Piety, on the other hand, is the discipline we use to achieve reverence. St. Thomas Aquinas says that piety perfects the virtue of religion, which is an aspect of the virtue of justice, in that it accords to God that which is due to God. Read more about [Reverence and Piety](#) at Fr. Nick's Notes. (Rev. Nick Glisson is pastor at St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church, Berkeley CA)

## Faith Groups at CGS



### Four Reasons Why Faith Groups are Vital

(Video, 2:49)

Join a small Faith Group at CGS or start one of your own!

**Ask us how.**

## Saints of the Month

by Jeremy Hearne



[Podcast each Tuesday!](#)

## More for your Domestic Church

Find resources for your family, household, or small Faith Group, including how to use this Guide, and much more. [Visit our website](#) OR scan the QR code with your smart phone.



# ADULT & FAMILY MINISTRY

## Adulthood

### Articles

- Catholic News Agency // [To be a good Christian is to be a good citizen, explains the Holy Father](#)
- Amy Auzenne // [Election Day 2023 - Whose side are you on?](#)
- St. Louis University // [The Perspective of Justice](#)

### Videos

- **Formed** // [Opening the Word - Reflection on this week's Gospel Reading](#)
- Ascension Press // The Catechism in a Year (Fr. Mike Schmitz): [The Duty of Citizens](#) -- (21:03)
- Ascension Presents // [What Constitutes a Practicing Catholic](#) -- (6:45)



## Catholic Apps



## Book Suggestions

## Current Bible Studies

## Young Adult Ministry

### The Bible Timeline - 24 Sessions

**Monday Mornings & Tuesday Evenings**

### **Ages 18-30**

Monday Mornings & Wednesday Evenings  
Other days, times and activities as announced.

## Sacramental Information



## & Becoming Catholic!

Visit the sacraments section of our parish website to find everything you need to get started with any sacrament or to inquire about becoming Catholic. Information is being continually updated. Contact [Deacon Stacy Millsap](#) our parish office if you have a question. We are glad to help you!



# FAMILIES WITH YOUTH



## Early Adolescence Jr.High, Grades 6-8

### Characteristics of Early Adolescents

**Question: How can I serve my community every day?**

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

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

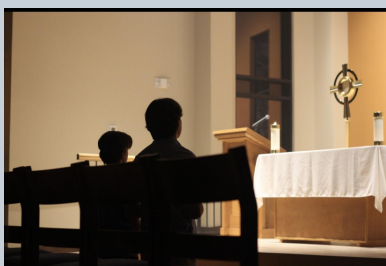
Ascension Presents // What Constitutes a Practicing Catholic -- video (6:45)

Ascension Presents // How to Share the Gospel -- video (7:00)

Ascension Presents // Have You Mastered the Basics of Your Faith? -- video (9:40)

"The more Eucharist we receive, the more we will become like Jesus, so that on earth we will have a foretaste of heaven."

**Blessed Carlo Acutis**



## Adolescence High School, Grades 9-12

### Characteristics of Adolescents

**Question: How can I live out my faith in my community?**

Ascension Presents // How Catholics Should Connect with Others -- video (7:47)

Ascension Presents // How to Share the Gospel -- video (7:00)

Ascension Presents // Have You Mastered the Basics of Your Faith? -- video (9:40)



## Youth Gather at CGS

Middle school and High school meet every Wednesday 7-8:30pm

# FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

## Nursery Pages

[Gospel of the Week](#) and  
[Activity pages](#) to do with your  
Toddler and Pre-schooler

## [Birth to Age 2](#)

The role of parents at this stage is to model the example of Jesus by offering God's unconditional love to their children and to others. Parents benefit from growing in their own faith so they are able to hand on the faith to the next generation.

## Age-Specific Materials

## [Pre-order Your Pflaum Gospel Weeklies](#)

*For families who want more "hands-on" materials.*  
How to Use the Gospel Weeklies

## [Early Childhood](#) Ages 3-5

**Question: How can I follow God's commands?**

"Seeds" by Pflaum Publishing

EWTN // [Tomkin The Catholic Cowboy: Called to be Saints](#) -- video (2:00)

EWTN // [Celebrating Mary - About Our Blessed Mother](#) -- video (27:24)

The Kid's Bulletin // [October 22, 2023](#)

## [Characteristics of Young Children](#)



## [Childhood](#) Elementary, Grades 1-5

**Question: How can I share God's love in my community?**

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

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

Sophia Institute // [Ready to Use Lesson for Each Sunday](#)

Author or Source // [Who Is Mary](#) -- video (3:59)

FORMED // [Slugs & Bugs: Fair Cupcakes](#) -- video (18:00)

The Kid's Bulletin // [October 22, 2023](#)

## [Characteristics of Children](#)



## For Parents



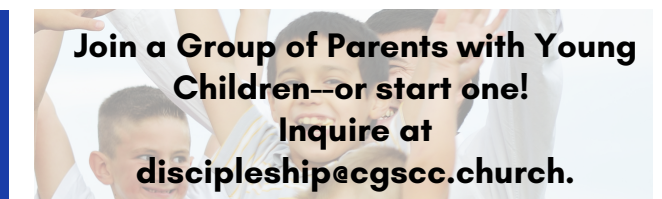
## [Strong Catholic Family Faith](#)

A project of Strong Catholic Families, Strong Catholic Youth Initiative

## [Family Faith Practices](#)

**Join a Group of Parents with Young  
Children--or start one!**

**Inquire at  
[discipleship@cgscc.church](mailto:discipleship@cgscc.church).**





# 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 as well as other approved translations. You may purchase from any vendor. Basic editions are available upon request at no charge. Pick one up at the parish office.



## 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 free for you to use. Register at [formed.org](https://www.formed.org) - Just click "Sign Up as a Parishioner." Need help? Watch this video.

## Counseling & 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 **Spiritual Direction** for anyone interested in a spiritual companion, discerning God's will in your life. Follow the links or inquire through the parish office.

## Prayers and Praying

USCCB // Praying Like a Faithful Citizen-- article



Prayer Requests



**Common Prayers and Formulas to Learn by Heart**

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



How to create a prayer table or prayer area in your home.

# ART & MUSIC

## Sacred Art on Formed

Parish subscription free for parishioners--register once, access all content.

[Formed.org](http://Formed.org)



## Using Sacred Art to Bring the Faith Alive

[Sophia Institute](http://Sophia Institute)

## Art to Inspire You



### Field of Vision: A Garden for Others

In December 2015, artist and environmental activist Jenny Kendler was commissioned to create a butterfly garden in downtown Louisville, Kentucky. In creating Field of Vision: A Garden for Others, Kendler used reclaimed wood, ultraviolet LED lights and milkweed to create a garden in Louisville that would draw people back to an often-overlooked river, while also supporting vulnerable butterfly populations.

## Music to Move You

- Toby Mac // Lose My Soul -- lyric video (4:15)
- Matt Maher // Soul on Fire -- video (3:40)
- Mandisa // Shine -- lyric video (4:15)
- Tom Booth // I Will Choose Christ -- song (4:30)



In what ways do art and music help strengthen your relationship with God? Tell us!  
[discipleship@cgscs.church](mailto:discipleship@cgscs.church)

## Meet Your Evangelization & Discipleship Staff

### Helping Others to Know and Love Jesus Christ



#### **Ivana Meshell**

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## **The CHURCH EXISTS IN ORDER TO EVANGELIZE**

...bringing all  
humanity to  
union with God;  
this is the  
missionary  
mandate  
of the Church.

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*Pope Paul VI in  
"Evangelii Nuntiandi"  
("Evangelization in  
the Modern World"),  
1975.*



## **Evangelize with us for the glory of God!**

[discipleship@cgscc.church](mailto:discipleship@cgscc.church)



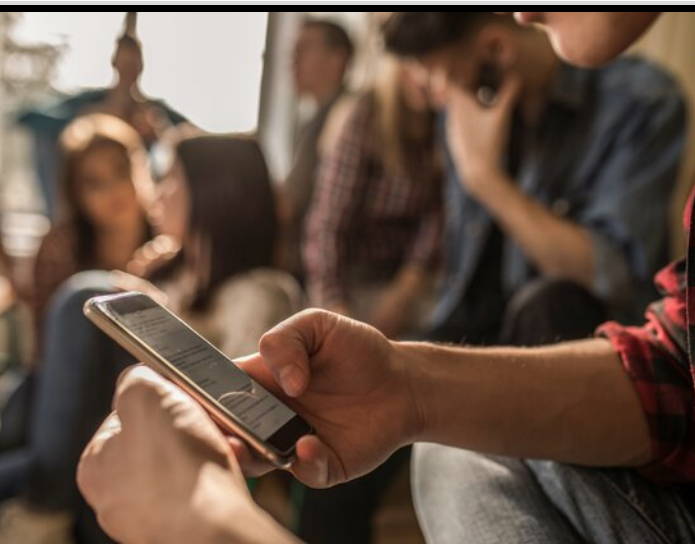


## Our Vision Statement

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

These Guides are produced weekly by our Office of Evangelization and Discipleship and are posted on our website each Friday evening: [cgscscc.church/cgs-family-guides](http://cgscscc.church/cgs-family-guides)

**"HELPING PEOPLE TO KNOW AND LOVE JESUS CHRIST."**



[discipleship@cgscscc.church](mailto:discipleship@cgscscc.church)



Official Page:

[Christ the Good Shepherd Catholic Church](https://www.facebook.com/ChristtheGoodShepherdCatholicChurch)



[@cgsyouth](https://www.instagram.com/cgsyouth)



Join us on Flocknote:

Text CGS to 84576.

You will receive emails & texts from CGS according to your preferences.

18511 Klein Church Rd. Spring, TX 77379

(281) 376-6831 \* [cgscscc.church](http://cgscscc.church)

Very Reverend James Burkart, Pastor

The contents of this Guide are in accordance with the teachings of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and the *Catechetical Framework for Lifelong Faith Formation* of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, under the pastoral care of Archbishop Daniel Cardinal DiNardo. Accordingly, the *Catechetical Framework* serves the definitive aim of catechesis which is to put people not only in touch with, but also in communion and intimacy, with Jesus Christ.