

# CGS FAMILY

TWENTY-SIX SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Volume III, Guide 45, October 1, 2023

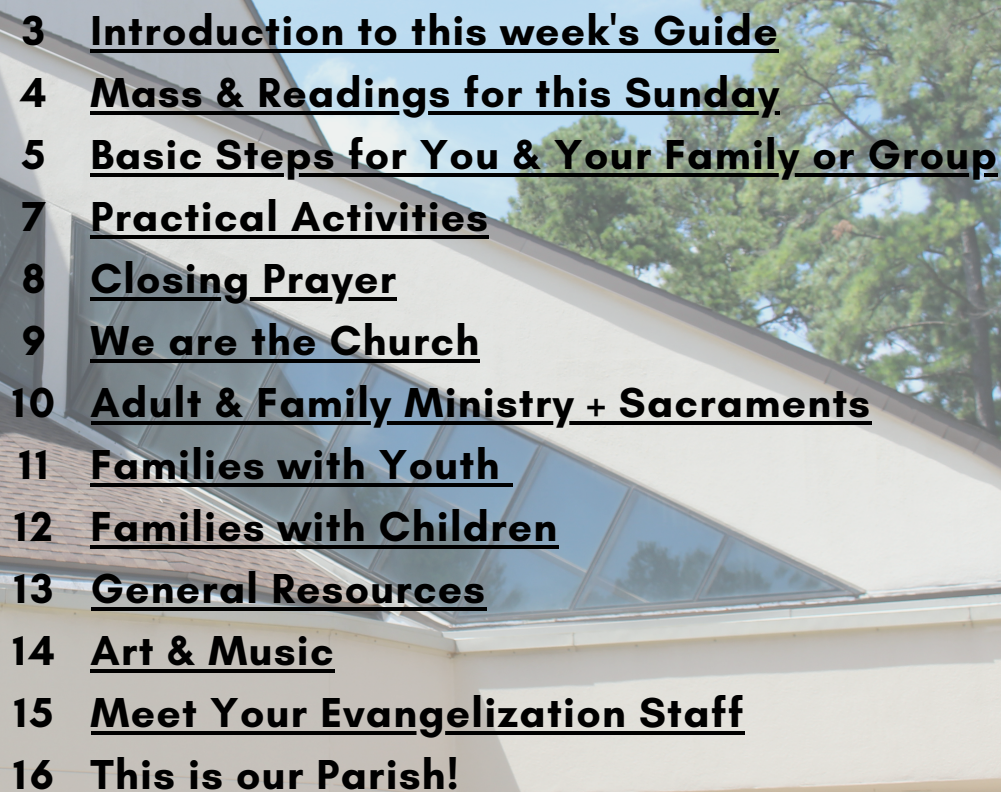


How can we be more faithful  
in our words and actions?

[www.cgscclchurch](http://www.cgscclchurch)



# Table of Contents

- 
- 3 **Introduction to this week's Guide**
  - 4 **Mass & Readings for this Sunday**
  - 5 **Basic Steps for You & Your Family or Group**
  - 7 **Practical Activities**
  - 8 **Closing Prayer**
  - 9 **We are the Church**
  - 10 **Adult & Family Ministry + Sacraments**
  - 11 **Families with Youth**
  - 12 **Families with Children**
  - 13 **General Resources**
  - 14 **Art & Music**
  - 15 **Meet Your Evangelization Staff**
  - 16 **This is our Parish!**

**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.



Very Rev. James Burkart  
Pastor



## FAITHFULNESS TO THE GIVEN WORD

We live in the time of grace... in the time of salvation. Jesus, in his infinite love, by his death on the cross and his resurrection, has earned us divine life and everything that this entails. But, as from the very beginning of human history and until the end of it (since we've been created with free will) the last decision is taken by each one of us.

In today's gospel, we hear the first of three parables that deal with judgment (the end of times), which is an important theme for the gospel of Matthew: the parable of the two sons. The one who said that he would go to work in the father's vineyard ended up not going, which in its context can refer to the Jews as those who God had chosen to be the light of the nations and who ended up rejecting the Messiah in the person of Jesus; and the second group, the Gentiles, referring to those for whom the messianic promises were not for them "originally" and who "had said no" but at the end will become repositories of these. There are those who point out that it can also refer to two types of Jews: the leaders who do not believe in Jesus as the Messiah and the marginalized who have believed in him. The dilemma here is who does and who does not do the will of the Father, which is what in the end is the definitive criterion of the true disciple of Jesus.

And what about US? Well, the invitation continues to be presented to each generation of Christians. The question is: Can we respond to Jesus with an obedient and committed faith? As we find in the same gospel of Saint Matthew (5, 37): Let your "Yes" mean 'Yes,' and you "No", mean 'No'. Anything more is from the evil one. May God grant us the grace to respond with a "YES" to Jesus' invitation and the determination to be faithful to our word. AMEN.

**Jose Juan Valdez**

**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-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

readings and podcasts, Year A

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)

First Reading: Ezekiel 18: 25-28

Psalm 25: 4-5, 6-7, 8-9

Second Reading: Philippians 2: 1-11

Gospel: Matthew 21: 28-32



PAULUS MEDIA & CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC CHURCH

PRESENTS

**This Weeks Gospel Message from Fr. Juan Pablo Orozco, CC.**

**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 can we be more faithful in our words and actions?

### 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

- Have I ever said that I would do something and I didn't do it? Or have I said that I wouldn't do it and at the end, I did it? Share!



## 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:

- Exhortation to repentance. Revelation 3:3
- Repentance takes away our sins. Acts 3: 19
- Consequences of prevailing in our sin and not repent. Revelation 2:22

#### In the Catechism of the Catholic Church

- Jesus and Israel's faith in God as Savior. #587-591
- With the "mind of Christ" of Christ we seek unity and forgiveness and look to the interest of others. #908, 2842, 2635
- The message of the last judgement calls men to conversion. #1041



The message of the parable is clear: Words do not count, but works, deeds of conversion and faith. Jesus—we have heard it—addresses this message to the high priests and elders of the people of Israel, that is, to the religious experts of his people. At first, they say "yes" to God's will. But their religiosity ends up becoming routine, and God no longer worries them. This is why they perceive the message of John the Baptist and Jesus as a nuisance.

Pope Benedict XVI

#### Discuss

1. Do I think I'm faithful? Why? And how do I express my fidelity?
2. How have I experienced the two scenarios of this parable in my own life? Share
3. How can we become more faithful in words and deeds?

Want more? Go Deeper!

St. John Chrysostom on the Gospel



#### Reflection Question

- How has my YES or my NO and my commitment to my word has affected positively or negatively to those around me?





## CONNECT with OTHERS...

### Living the Gospel with commitment & action.

What is one thing I am are willing to change in my life so that I can honor and commit to my words, specially those related with my big and important promises.

#### Practical Activities



##### *For the Individual* - **Be Patient...**

Be patient with those who change their mind. Try to understand them from their reality.



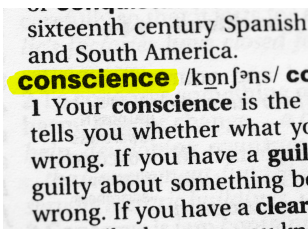
##### *For Couples* - **The Wedding Vows**

This week, review your wedding vows together and share how you fulfilled the promises you have made on your wedding day and also how can you help each other to continue living this commitment.



##### **For the Domestic Church - Brainstorming**

As family, brainstorm ways to be more faithful in deeds to God's word. Determine a specific action around one of them and plan to do it together.



##### *Missionary Mindset* - **Faithfulness to our conscience**

Invite to your group, ministry or apostolate someone who does not currently practice the faith or are not part of a church or religion. Talk to them about how they are faithful to their conscience, to the law written by God in their hearts.



## Building Your Church at Home

Your household is where "church" begins. Your parish is here to help you with support, resources, small Faith Groups, and gathered activities on our campus throughout the year. Visit our website or contact us if you need help.

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**

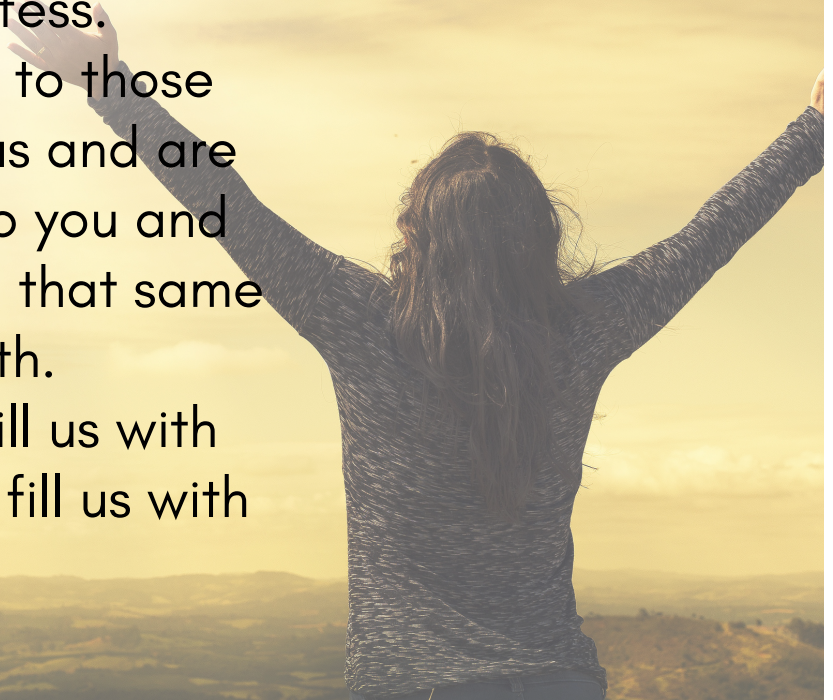
### Prayer

We come before you now,  
Good and Holy God and  
Father.

Help us to believe and to live  
what we profess.

Open our hearts to those  
who are around us and are  
signs of fidelity to you and  
help us to live with that same  
radical faith.

May your Spirit fill us with  
love and your son fill us with  
faith.  
Amen.



### 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 can we be more faithful in our words and actions?**



# WE ARE THE CHURCH

## What Makes us Catholic?

### The Sacrament of Matrimony

*By its very nature conjugal love requires the inviolable fidelity of the spouses. This is the consequence of the gift of themselves which they make to each other. Love seeks to be definitive; it cannot be an arrangement "until further notice." the "intimate union of marriage, as a mutual giving of two persons, and the good of the children, demand total fidelity from the spouses and require an unbreakable union between them."*

**CCC #1646**



## Word of the Week - Faithfulness

Faithfulness comes from a place of trust and loyalty. Hebrews 11:1 says, "Now faith is a confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." As a Christian, it is important to be faithful to God. It is one thing to simply believe in Him, but another to be faithful to Him.

## Faith Groups at CGS



### Four Reasons Why Faith Groups are Vital

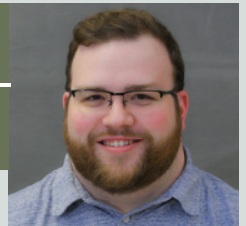
(Video, 2:49)

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

### Videos

- **Formed** // **Opening the Word - Reflection on this week's Gospel Reading**
- **Catholic Productions** // Parable of the Two Sons - Video (7:44)
- **Pax Christi Multimedia - English** // Sunday's Gospel Reflection - 9-27-20 - 26th Sunday of Ordinary Time -- Video (3:14)
- **John Michael Talbot** // 26th Sunday of Ordinary Time (Cycle A) - Gospel Matthew 21:28-32 - JMT Gospel Reflection - Video (1:49)
- **Capuchin Franciscans** // The Parable of the Two Sons - Gospel Reflection - Video (8:58)



Bring your friends and family, young and old for a fulfilling, prayerful experience to complete your Sunday, provided by renowned musician, singer, and composer Augie Leal! Our upbeat, sing-along music is from 6:00-6:30 and we move into more soothing, meditative music from 6:30-7:00 as Adoration begins. Come, together let us praise the Lord.

## 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 do you keep your commitments with others?**

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

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

Ascension Presents // Your Actions Have Consequences -- video (6:53)

Ascension Presents // The Danger of Complaining -- video (10:10)

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

Ascension Presents // Consistency Will Make You Holy -- (7:16)

"I am not capable of doing big things, but I want to do everything, even the smallest things, for the greater glory of God."

St. Dominic Savio



## Adolescence High School, Grades 9-12

### Characteristics of Adolescents

**Question: How do you keep your commitments with others?**

Ascension Presents // Your Actions Have Consequences -- video (6:53)

Ascension Presents // The Danger of Complaining -- video (10:10)

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

Ascension Presents // Consistency Will Make You Holy -- (7:16)



## 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 you keep your promises?**

**"Seeds"** by Pflaum Publishing

The Kid's Bulletin // October 1, 2023

EWTN Kids // My Catholic Family: St. Francis of Assisi --video (25:18)

## Characteristics of Young Children



## Childhood

Elementary, Grades 1-5

**Question: How can you be trustworthy and dependable?**

**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

The Kid's Bulletin // October 1, 2023

EWTN Kids // My Catholic Family: St. Francis of Assisi --video (25:18)

## Characteristics of Children



## For Parents

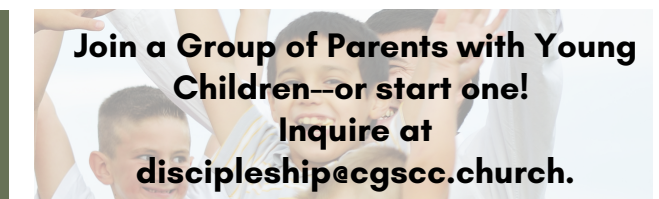
## Strong Catholic Family Faith

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@cgsc.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

Catholic Spirit//Pray to increase faith



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)

## Sacred Art to Inspire You

### COVER IMAGE



### Philippians 2:6-11 // Full of Eyes

believes Jesus Christ is God in the flesh. There is no reality more satisfying, more joy-giving, or more beautiful than Him. [Read more](#)



Jorge Cocco// Two Sons -- painting



Andrey Nikolaevich Mironov//  
Parable of the two sons - Painting  
Oil on Canvas (2012)

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**

Director of Evangelization & Discipleship  
281-376-6831 \* [imeshell@cgscc.church](mailto:imeshell@cgscc.church)



**Jose Juan Valdez**

Associate Director  
Adult & Family Evangelization & Discipleship  
281-376-6831 \* [jvaldez@cgscc.church](mailto:jvaldez@cgscc.church)



**Dawn Leal**

Associate Director  
Families with Elementary-Age Children  
346-236-6462 \* [dleal@cgscc.church](mailto:dleal@cgscc.church)



**Ruth Barrera**

Co-coordinator  
High School Youth Ministry  
346-236-6464 \* [rbarrera@cgscc.church](mailto:rbarrera@cgscc.church)



**Brandon Riojas**

Co-coordinator  
Middle School Youth Ministry  
346-236-6464 \* [briojas@cgscc.church](mailto:briojas@cgscc.church)



**Anna Spalding**

Executive Assistant  
Lay Ministry Teams and Faith Groups  
346-236-6444 \* [aspalding@cgscc.church](mailto:aspalding@cgscc.church)



**Jackie Coba**

Evangelization & Discipleship  
Department Assistant  
346-236-6458 \* [jcoba@cgscc.church](mailto:jcoba@cgscc.church)

## The CHURCH EXISTS IN ORDER TO EVANGELIZE

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

*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)



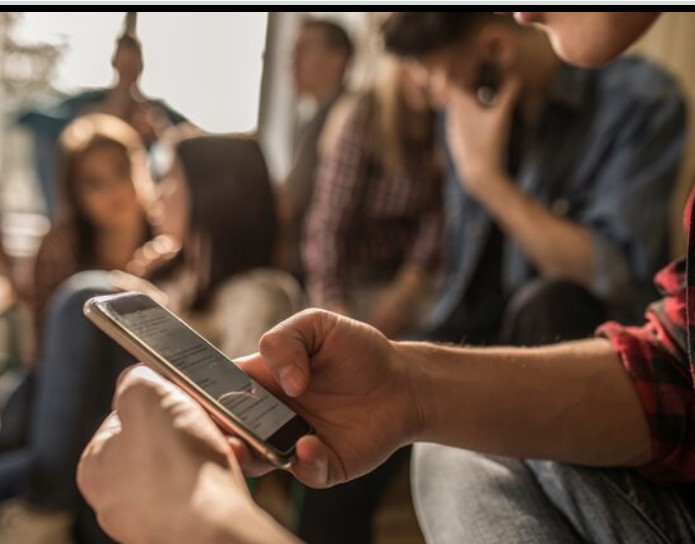


## Our Vision Statement

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: [cgscs.church/cgs-family-guides](http://cgscs.church/cgs-family-guides)

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



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



Official Page:

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



@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 \* [cgscs.church](http://cgscs.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.