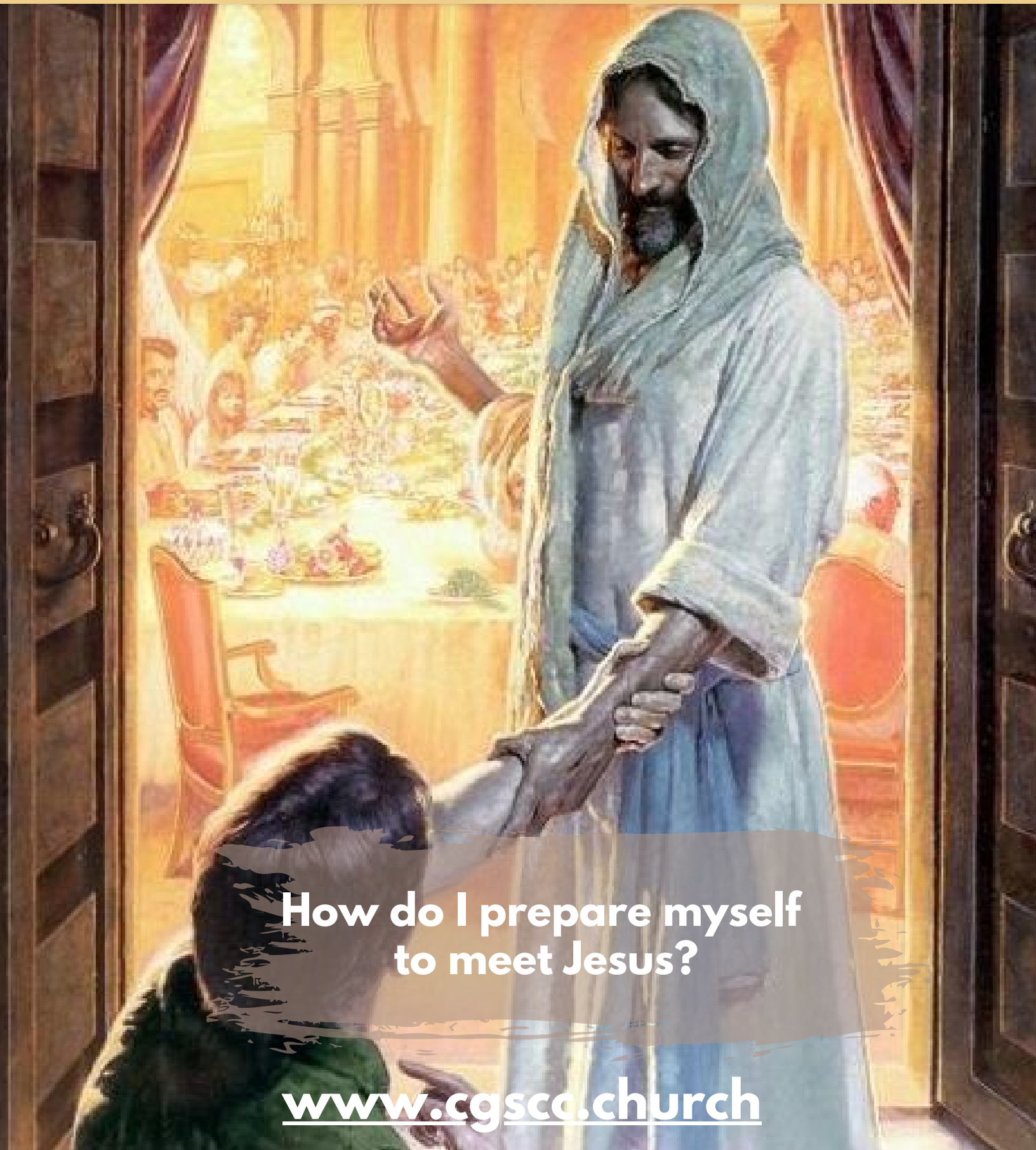


CGS FAMILY

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Volume III, Guide 47, October 15, 2023

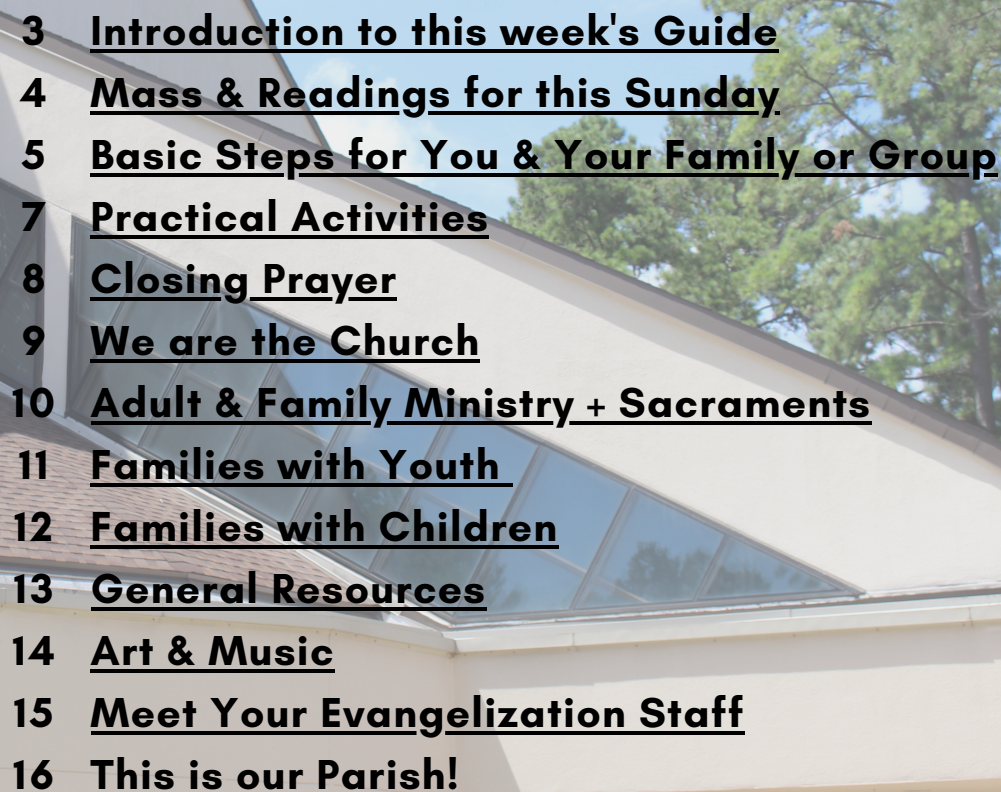


How do I prepare myself
to meet Jesus?

www.cgscs.church



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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

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



This Week

The RSVP Was "No!"

On my eighth birthday, my Godmother took me to the movie Cinderella. From that moment on, the thought of going to a formal banquet given by royalty intrigued me. For that reason, this parable always confused me. After all, who would RSVP "NO" to a king for the prince's wedding? I understood very young that the king was God and thought, "Who would turn down the King of the Universe?" My questions did not stop there because the story even gets stranger. Not only are the invited guests not coming, but the messengers and servants are killed while giving the invite. Really? I was taught that the Gospels had no wasted words and that each word was carefully chosen to lead us toward the truth. What truth is Matthew teaching us? Let's look deeper.

Jesus is not telling this parable to his followers; instead, he is speaking to the chief priests and elders, those who are respected and hold high office for the chosen people: the Jews. Jesus uses this parable as an extended simile. The wedding banquet is an image of the kingdom: heaven. In the Old Testament, the Jews thought they were the only ones to be saved and invited to the banquet. God sent many prophets to Israel to "invite" them to repent and return to the fold. Not only did they not repent, but the prophets, the messengers, the servants were often killed. Still, God remained faithful and did not stop inviting them. Unfortunately, the chosen still refused the invitation.

By this parable, Jesus now gives notice that the invitation is open to all nations, not just to Israel. Everyone has a place at the banquet. All we have to do is say "YES," and we get to be there. Right? No, not quite, because we must come to the banquet adequately prepared. We must dress ourselves in the virtues of faith, hope, and charity. We must do the work to become a true disciple so we can sit at the feast. Prayer is an essential part of our preparation so we may attend the banquet. One Sunday during his homily, Father David Michael Moses taught us a prayer that will help us become ready for the kingdom, "You, O Lord, who have prepared a place for my soul...prepare my soul for that place." Amen.

Anna Spalding

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-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

readings and podcasts, Year A

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)

First Reading: Isaiah 25: 6-10

Psalms 23: 1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6

Second Reading: Philippians 4: 12-14, 19-20

Gospel: Matthew 22: 1-14



PAULUS MEDIA & CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC CHURCH

PRESENTS

This Weeks Gospel Message from Fr. Jorge Alvarado
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 do I prepare myself to meet Jesus?

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

Recall a time when you were invited to a special occasion as an honored guest. What was the occasion and how did you prepare for the event?



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:

- Charity (Love) is the greatest of these...1 Corinthians 13: 13
- Blessed are those called to the wedding banquet...Revelation 19:9
- I chose and appointed you...John 15:16

In the Catechism of the Catholic Church

- Prayer as humble, persevering love. #2742-2743
- Jesus invites all (even sinners) to the kingdom's table (the wedding feast of Christ and his bride)- but this requires a choice. #543-546, #796
- Christian initiation: The newly baptized (now God's child and clothed in the wedding garment) comes to the marriage supper of the Lamb. #1243-1244

Pope Francis explains the importance of the wedding garment, "people went as they were dressed, as they were able to be dressed; they were not wearing gala attire. But at the entrance they were give(n) a type of capelet, a gift." This gift was freely given and represented "the mercy of God." from Pope Francis' ANGELUS ADDRESS 11 October 2020



To the left



Replica of a Jewish Wedding Capelet

Discuss

1. After reading this Sunday's Gospel, who do I identify with in the parable?
2. In what way can I grow in the virtues of Faith, Hope, & Charity?
3. How has my selfishness separated me from Christ?

Want more? Go Deeper!

When Heaven and Earth are joined
All this Happens at Mass

Reflection Question

How can I clothe myself with the virtues of Hope, Faith, and Charity to prepare myself to meet Jesus? What do I need to change to shed habits that do not demonstrate these virtues?



CONNECT with OTHERS...

Living the Gospel with commitment & action.

How can I practice the Theological Virtues of Hope, Faith and Charity (love) to become closer to Jesus and others?

Practical Activities



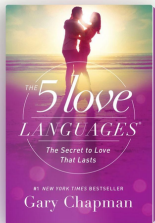
For the Individual – **Increase your Faith through Scripture**

Reading your Bible every day is not just to learning or getting information about God. Entering into reading scripture prayerfully and with an open heart allows the Holy Spirit to feed your faith. This week, take some time to read scripture daily to get to know God and love Him better. As stated by St. Jerome, "Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ."



For Couples – **Sharing Hopes**

The idea of sharing your hopes and dreams, both as individuals and as a couple, is very meaningful to a relationship. Whether your relationship is new or decades old, thinking about the future together and making goals and plans can be exciting. Each one of you take time this week to make a "togetherness" bucket list. After making the lists, set a time to come together and combined both list into one. Agree upon the order and priority of a few things on the list and how quickly they will be done.



For the Domestic Church – **The 5 Languages of Love**

Dr. Gary Chapman's book, *The 5 Love Languages*, has been on the New York Times Best seller list since 2007. The premise of the book is quite simple: different people with different personalities give and receive love in different ways. By learning to recognize these preferences in yourself and in your loved ones, you can learn to identify the root of your conflicts, connect more profoundly, and truly begin to grow closer. The 5 Love Language website offers a quiz [What's your Love Language](#) for free.



CGS Food Pantry
9/29/23

Missionary Mindset – **Charity (Love) for Others helping with our Food Drive**

Donating non-perishable food items like sauces, soups, canned meats & meals, vegetables & fruit, cereals, and peanut butter & jelly can help address food insecurity, which is a human right and an immediate way to assist those in need in our emergency food pantry. You may bring your donations during the weekend Masses or at the parish office. Thank you for all you generous donations.



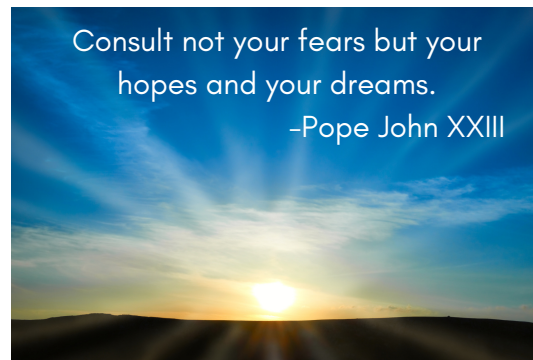
Building Your Church at Home

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 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

ACTS OF FAITH, HOPE & CHARITY//Sanctatrinitas.org

ACT OF FAITH

O my God! I firmly believe that Thou art one God in three Divine Persons, Father, Son and Holy Ghost; I believe that Thy 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 Thou hast revealed them, Who canst neither deceive nor be deceived. Amen.

ACT OF HOPE

O my God! Relying on Thy almighty power and infinite mercy and promises, I hope to obtain pardon of my sins, the help of Thy grace, and life everlasting, through the merits of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Redeemer. Amen.

ACT OF CHARITY

O my God! I love Thee above all things, with my whole heart and soul, because Thou art all good and worthy of all love. I love my neighbour as myself for love of Thee. I forgive all who have injured me and ask pardon of all whom I have injured. 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 do I prepare myself to meet Jesus?

WE ARE THE CHURCH

What Makes us Catholic?

The Theological Virtues

The Theological Virtues of faith, hope, and charity(love) are those virtues that relate directly to God. These are not acquired through human effort but, beginning with Baptism, they are infused within us as gifts from God.

They dispose us to live in relationship with the Holy Trinity. Faith, hope, and charity influence human virtues by increasing their stability and strength for our lives. Growth in virtue is an important goal for every Christian, for the virtues play a valuable role in living a Christian moral life.

United States catholic Catechism for Adults, pg. 317



Melani Pyke // [Embracing Hope](#)

[Learn more about the artist.](#)

Word of the Week - Charity

Charity in its purest sense means love and encompasses our love for God and our love for our fellow people. St. Thomas Aquinas said, "The habit of charity extends not only to the love of God, but also the love of our neighbor." These two kinds of love are closely tied to one another. According to moral theology, charity is a divinely infused virtue which lets us focus our will to cherish God above all things for his own sake and to cherish humanity for the sake of God. Read more in an article from the Archdiocese of Indiana - David Bethuram//[Virtue of charity requires us to speak, act and think with love](#)

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

- [My Catholic Life//Daily Reflections for the Twenty-Eighth Week in Ordinary Time](#)
- [Fr. Maurice Emelu//How Faith Relates to Hope and Charity](#)
- [Paul J. Wadell//Hope: the forgotten virtue of our time](#)
- [Pope Francis//Angelus, Saint Peter's Square, Sunday, 11 October 2020](#)
- [Monsignor Frank Bonanno//Three Minutes with God: Meditations on Hope -- blog](#)
- [Your Bible Verses Daily//Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen Explains the Nine Ingredients Necessary for Charity](#)

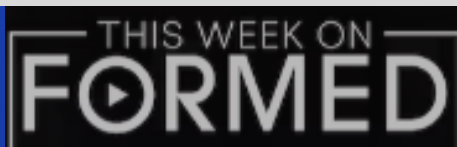
Videos

- [***Formed***//***Opening the Word - Reflection on this week's Gospel Reading***](#)
- [Life is Worth Living//Episode 74 | Faith, Hope, and Love | Fulton Sheen -- \(24:40\)](#)
- [Ascension Press//Is it Ever Okay to Give Up? -- \(10:25\)](#)
- [Bishop Robert Barron//Faith, Hope and Love -- \(10:05\)](#)



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 I prepare myself to encounter Jesus in prayer?

Grades 5 & 6: "Venture" by Pflaum Publishing

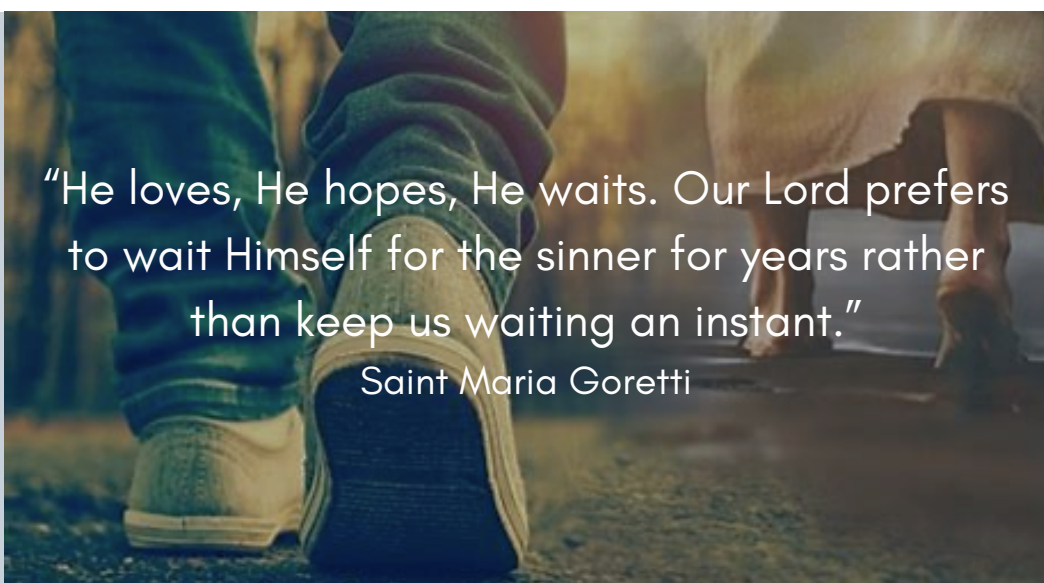
Grades 7 & 8: "Visions" by Pflaum Publishing

Ascension Presents // This is What it Means to Encounter Jesus -- video (12:57)

Ascension Presents // To Have Jesus, Let go of Everything Else -- video (10:28)

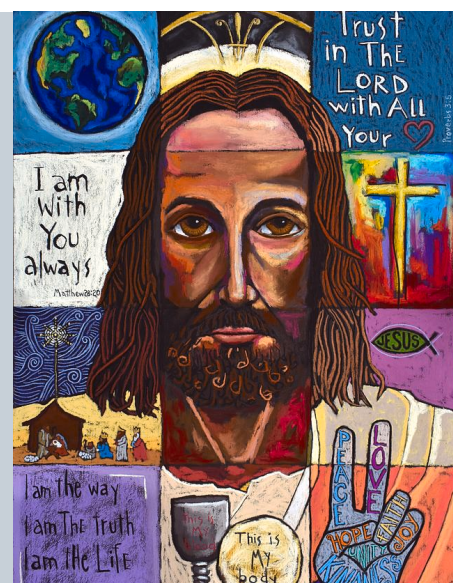
Ascension Presents // How to Prepare for Sunday Readings -- video (8:18)

Catholic Minute // Eucharist Real Presence (How to Receive) -- video (8:26)



"He loves, He hopes, He waits. Our Lord prefers to wait Himself for the sinner for years rather than keep us waiting an instant."

Saint Maria Goretti



Adolescence High School, Grades 9-12

Characteristics of Adolescents

Question: How do I prepare myself to encounter Jesus in prayer?

Ascension Presents // This is What it Means to Encounter Jesus -- video (12:57)

Ascension Presents // To Have Jesus, Let go of Everything Else -- video (10:28)

Ascension Presents // How to Prepare for Sunday Readings -- video (8:18)

Catholic Minute // Eucharist Real Presence (How to Receive) -- video (8:26)



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

[Characteristics of Young Children](#)

Question: How do I prepare my heart for Jesus?
"Seeds" by Pflaum Publishing

FORMED // Brother Francis: [Following In His Footsteps](#) -- video (24:00)

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

[Characteristics of Children](#)

Question: How do I live so that I can prepare to meet Jesus?

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 15, 2023](#)

FORMED // Brother Francis: [Following In His Footsteps](#) -- video (24:00)

For Parents



[Strong Catholic Family Faith](#)

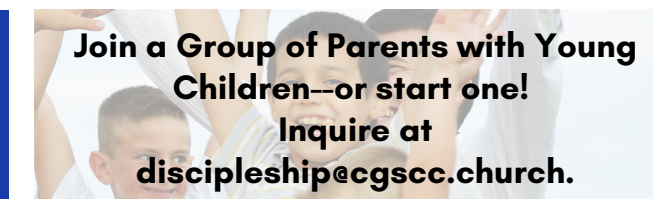
A project of Strong Catholic Families, Strong Catholic Youth Initiative



[Family Faith Practices](#)

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

**Inquire at
discipleship@cgsc.church.**



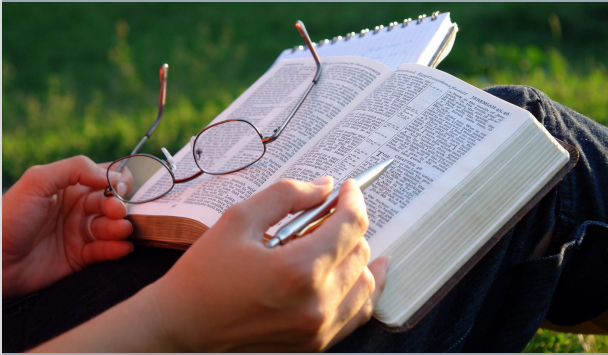
GENERAL RESOURCES

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 - 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

The Catholic Company // Prayers of Preparation for Mass



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



Using Sacred Art to Bring the Faith Alive

[Sophia Institute](http://SophiaInstitute.org)

Sacred Art to Inspire You

Music to Move You

COVER IMAGE

Greg Olsen/Take your seat -- painting

- Mercy Me// Then Christ Came -- video (3:32)
- Ivan Diaz & Chris Muglia// Our God is Here -- video (8:44)
- Phil Wickham// This is our God -- video (4:32)



The Theological Virtues: Faith, Charity, Hope // Italian (Umbrian) Painter Italian

Each figure is accompanied by an attribute: at the feet of Faith a dog, a common symbol of fidelity; at the feet of Charity a pelican symbolic of Christ's sacrifice; and at the feet of Hope a phoenix, symbolizing Christ's Resurrection. The series of allegorical figures, viewed against a continuous landscape, was probably intended to decorate the back of a spalliere (a high-backed bench or day-bed) or to be set into a wainscoting.

In what ways do art and music help strengthen your relationship with God? Tell us!
discipleship@cgscc.church

Meet Your Evangelization & Discipleship Staff

Helping Others to Know and Love Jesus Christ



Ivana Meshell

Director of Evangelization & Discipleship
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Jose Juan Valdez

Associate Director
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Co-coordinator
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Jackie Coba

Evangelization & Discipleship
Department Assistant
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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.

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



Evangelize with us for the glory of God!

discipleship@cgscc.church

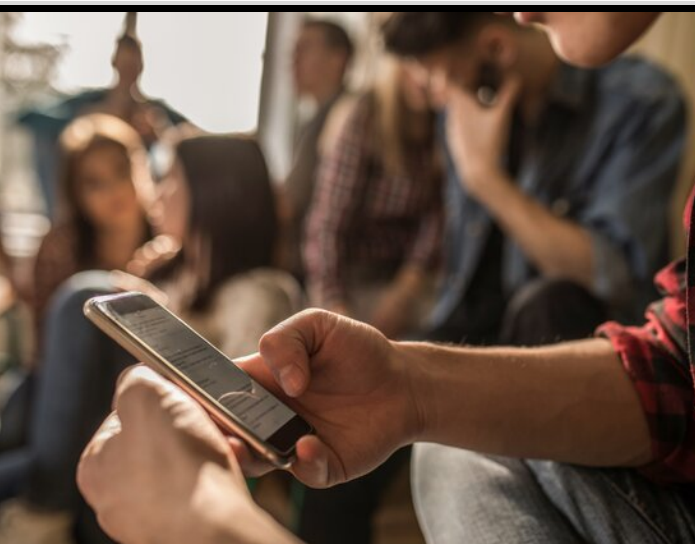


Our Vision Statement

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

"HELPING PEOPLE TO KNOW AND LOVE JESUS CHRIST."



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

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.