

CGS FAMILY

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Volume III, Guide 49, October 29, 2023

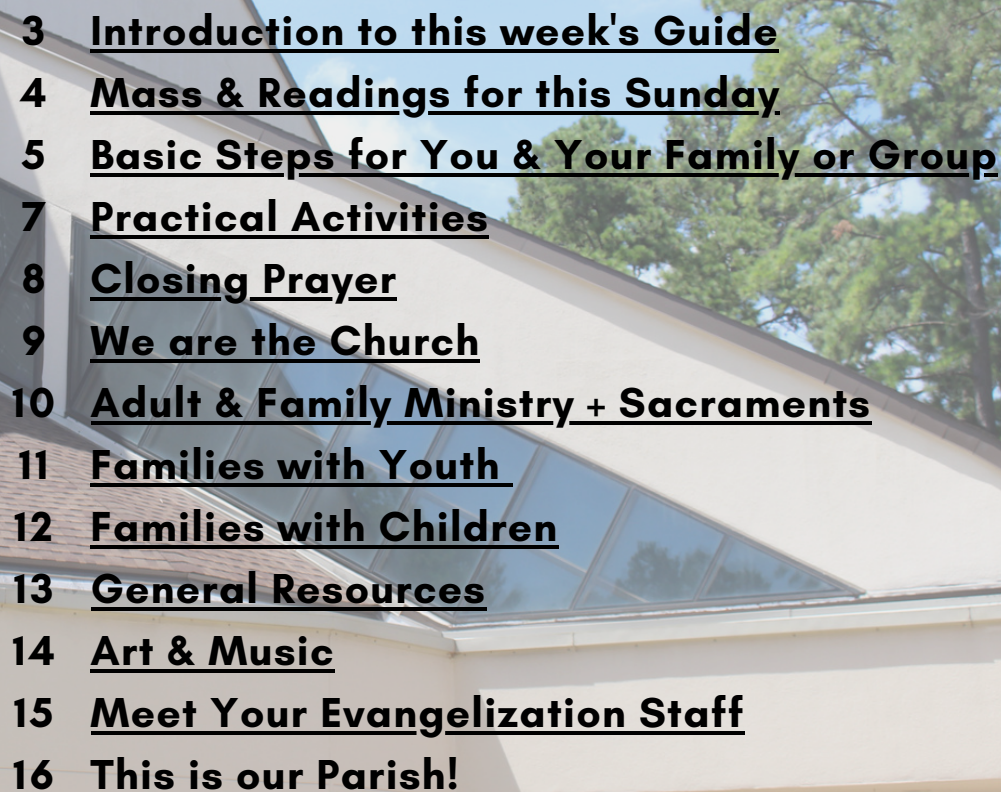


**How am I loving God
and others?**

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

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

Our Highest Calling

When Jesus was asked by a leading legal scholar which commandment was the greatest, the Son of God said: "'You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments" (Matt. 22:37-40).

This is the essence of the Christian faith and our highest calling as disciples of Jesus: Loving God completely and loving our neighbor selflessly. We love God primarily through our worship of him and keeping his commandments for the sake of the covenant-of-love relationship we have with him, and we love our neighbor through empathy, caring, and service. There is nothing new about this teaching, most of us have heard it many times. The key is our highest calling is also our lifetime project, and it takes a lifetime to learn to do it well. This world is basically "boot camp" for learning how to be a loving person. We either get good at it in this life or we never will. The saints do this by constant practice, trying and failing and trying again, depending on the Holy Spirit given to us by our baptism and confirmation to help us do what we alone cannot do. We must never grow tired of doing what is right (II Thessalonians 3:13). We must take courage, believing that God will not be outdone in generosity that each time we extend ourselves in love for others, God will bless and multiply our efforts. The secret that the world still does not know is that unselfish love and service is immensely gratifying and, because we share the nature of God, it is naturally the way to true peace and happiness. Eternal friendship with God is its own gift to those who love God, keep his commandments, and relentlessly love others.

We need not do the spectacular or heroic to love others. Sometimes we do, but most of life is the day-to-day things, loving and serving those around us. It is easy to overlook these opportunities. When we start where we can, our desire to love grows enough to want it for the whole world. In this Guide, let's start where we can continue to love God and others when and where we can.

Ivana T. Meshell

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.

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

readings and podcasts, Year A

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)

First Reading: Exodus 22: 20-26

Psalm 18: 2-3, 3-4, 47, 51

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1: 5-10

Gospel: Matthew 22: 34-40



PAULUS MEDIA & CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC CHURCH

PRESENTS

This Weeks Gospel Message from Leslie Cervantes

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 loving God and others?

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

- Describe a time when you showed love to someone around you and how did that also reflect your love for God?



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:

- "...whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God." I Corinthians 10:31
- "...but you, brothers, do not be remiss in doing good." II Thessalonians 3:13
- "Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone! Therefore, you shall love the LORD, your God, with your whole heart, and with your whole being, and with your whole strength." Deuteronomy 6:4

In the Catechism of the Catholic Church

- The Ten commandments are summed up in the "two great commandments." #2054-2055
- God Loves us: the commandments express the divine-human covenant #2061-2063
- Human Beings are created for the covenant of love, rooted in the "heart." #2563

To love God and others, the Catholic Church teaches that we should love God with our whole minds, hearts, bodies, souls, and strength. This means that we should strive to love God in all aspects of our lives. We are to hold nothing back from loving God, giving him our all, who has given all to us. One way to do this is by studying Jesus Christ more deeply and coming to know him better

[Visit Catholic Stand](#)

Discuss

1. It is said, "How can you love God whom you cannot see if you do not love people whom you can see?" Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Explain why or why not.
2. Name some things you are already doing to show your love for God and for other people. Why are these things important to you?
3. In what ways can you love within your circle of influence--your household, your family, your community, strangers and even your enemies and people you don't get along with?

Want more? Go Deeper!

[St. Thomas Aquinas on the Nature of God's Love](#)



Reflection Question

Consider some ways in which you could increase your love for God and others through your everyday choices and daily decision making.



CONNECT with OTHERS...

Living the Gospel with commitment & action.

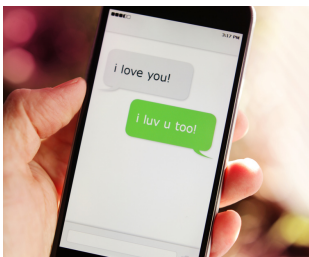
Showing others empathy is a way that we can show our love for our neighbors while helping others connect with God's love. What is one thing that I can do this week that will make me more aware of being empathetic?

Practical Activities



For the Individual – **Feeling Spent, Spend Kindness on Others**

St. Therese of Lisieux said, "In this life we cannot do great things. We can only do small things with great love." At some point in your day, do a small thing to help someone feel special. This is as simple as picking up your spouse's favorite coffee, sending a text message to some who has asked you to pray for them, or helping a neighbor with a chore. Building empathy is not about doing great things, rather it is about doing little kindnesses each day.



For Couples – **Use Technology to Connect**

This week conduct an audit on what you are texting to each other. Is it a list of "honey-dos and honey-don'ts"; are you using it to conduct business; or are you using it to continue a disagreement. During the week try to use your digital interactions as a chance to better connect with others. Send a message or two of kindness to your spouse randomly this week.



For the Domestic Church – **Praise Empathy in Others**

A lot of our attention tends to go towards the loudest voices and the most negative actions. Let's make a habit of praising empathic behavior when we see it. By bringing attention to this virtue, we can encourage more positive behavior while making our Domestic Church a kinder more loving home.



Missionary Mindset – **Disagree without Debating**

Have a conversation with someone you disagree with. But rather than debating or discussing the contentious issue, share your story of how you came to form your opinion and then listen to how they arrived at theirs. Empathy does not mean condoning — but it can mean understanding. We don't need to change our opinion or theirs, but through empathy we gain an understanding about their point of view.



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



**True love for God leads to
compassionate care for others**

**Bless us with Love,
O Merciful God,**

That we may Love as you Love!
That we may show patience,
tolerance, kindness, caring
and love to all!

Give us wisdom
O giver of wisdom,
That we may be one with you
and with one another.

O Compassionate One,
grant compassion unto us;
That we may help all fellow
souls in need!

Bless us with your Love O God,
and help us to bless one
another with your Love.

- Author Unknown

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 loving God and others?

WE ARE THE CHURCH

What Makes us Catholic?

Catholic social teaching is a central and essential element of our faith. Its roots are in the Hebrew prophets who announced God's special love for the poor and called God's people to a covenant of love and justice. It is a teaching founded on the life and words of Jesus Christ, who came "to bring glad tidings to the poor . . . liberty to captives . . . recovery of sight to the blind"(Luke 4:18-19), and who identified himself with "the least of these," the hungry and the stranger (cf. Matthew 25:45). Catholic social teaching is built on a commitment to the poor. This commitment arises from our experiences of Christ in the Eucharist.



Catholic Social Teaching and Social Justice

The Church's social teaching is a very rich treasure of wisdom about building a just society and living lives of holiness amidst the challenges of modern society. More

📺 Presentation at Home / Feb 5, 2021

Click!

As the Catechism of the Catholic Church explains, "To receive in truth the Body and Blood of Christ given up for us, we must recognize Christ in the poorest, his brethren" ([no. 1397](#)).

Word of the Week - Empathy

Empathy is the capacity to understand or feel what another person is experiencing from within their frame of reference, that is, the capacity to place oneself in another's position. As Catholics, we believe in the importance of intentionally cultivating an awareness of another person's reality in order to gain a more genuine understanding of their feelings, thoughts, and perspectives. The significance of empathy is that it gives us the capacity to act with love to alleviate someone else's suffering.

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

- America the Jesuit Review // [Pope Francis: 'This is our identity: we are God's loved ones.'](#)
- Catholic Answers // [The Greatest Commandment](#)
- Catholic Daily Reflections // [The Greatest Commandment](#)
- Catholic Philly.com // [The History of the American Church is Rooted in the Phrase "Love One Another as I Have Loved You"](#)

Videos

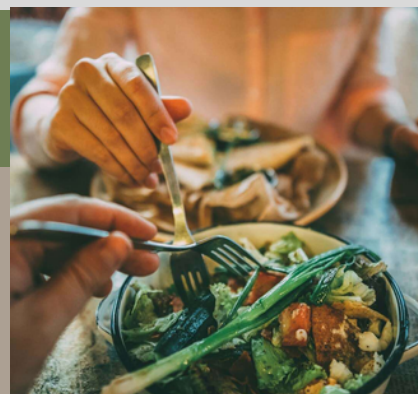
- **[Formed](#)** // **[Opening the Word - Reflection on this week's Gospel Reading](#)**
- Ascension Presents // [Fr. Mike on Evangelization: Telling the Story of God's Love](#) (1:04:44)
- Catholic Clips // [Three Kinds of love - Venerable Fulton Sheen](#) (36:09)
- Catholic Productions // [Perfect Love](#) (8:01)



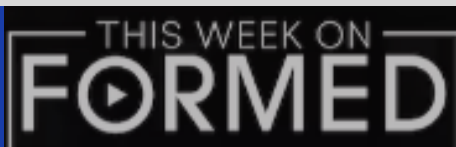
8 Ways We Show Love Through Food

See also:

Food Drive
Refugee Thanksgiving



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: What do I do to express my love for God and others?

Grades 5 & 6: "Venture" by Pflaum Publishing

Grades 7 & 8: "Visions" by Pflaum Publishing

Ascension Presents // Love is an Ability -- video (3:59)

Ascension Presents // Loving People You Don't Like -- video (7:26)

Ascension Presents // Does God Have a Love Language? -- video (8:38)

Ascension Presents // Why Love is More than a Feeling -- video (8:30)

"It is easy to love the people far away. It is not always easy to love those close to us. It is easier to give a cup of rice to relieve hunger than to relieve the loneliness and pain of someone unloved in our own home. Bring love into your home, for this is where our love for each other must start."

Saint Teresa of Calcutta



Adolescence High School, Grades 9-12

Characteristics of Adolescents

Question: What do I do to express my love for God and others?

Ascension Presents // Love is an Ability -- video (3:59)

Ascension Presents // Loving People You Don't Like -- video (7:26)

Ascension Presents // Does God Have a Love Language? -- video (8:38)

Ascension Presents // Why Love is More than a Feeling -- video (8:30)



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 show love for God and others?

"Seeds" by Pflaum Publishing

FORMED // [Jesus Stories: The Good Samaritan](#) -- video (9:46)

The Kid's Bulletin // [October 29, 2023](#)



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

[Characteristics of Children](#)

Question: How do I show love for God and others?

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](#).

EWTN // [Roamin' Catholic: The Mystical Body of Christ](#) -- video (30:00)

The Kid's Bulletin // [October 29, 2023](#)



For Parents

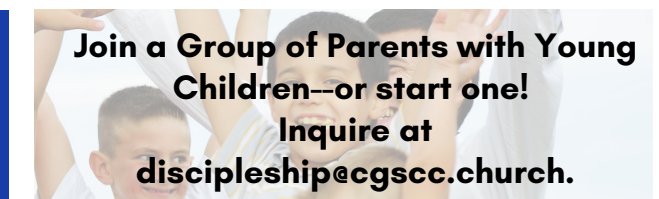
[Strong Catholic Family Faith](#)

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@cgscs.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

My Catholic Life // Assortment of Catholic Prayers by Category



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



THE NATIONAL
MUSEUM
OF CATHOLIC ART AND LIBRARY
"A Museum Built By Angels"

The National Museum of Catholic Art and Library



Love each other as I have loved you. John 15:12

"Love One Another"

Rachel Levingston

Salt Lake City, Utah

Rachel does a lot of outdoor, nature, and animal pictures.



Heart Of Jesus

Arte Sacro

Mosaico Bizantino, Mexico



Sacred Heart of Jesus

By Dona Gelsinger

of Southern Oregon

Music to Move You

- Phil J // Love Your Neighbor (Official Audio) -- (3:29)
- Chris Tomlin // Love - Video (5:51)
- Toby Mac, Joh Reddick // Show Up Choose Love (Video) -- (3:32)



"If you want to bring happiness to the whole world, go home and love your family."

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

Meet Your Evangelization & Discipleship Staff

Helping Others to Know and Love Jesus Christ



Ivana Meshell

Director of Evangelization & Discipleship
281-376-6831 * imeshell@cgsgcc.church



Jose Juan Valdez

Associate Director
Adult & Family Evangelization & Discipleship
281-376-6831 * jvaldezcgsgcc.church



Dawn Leal

Associate Director
Families with Elementary-Age Children
346-236-6462 * dleal@cgsgcc.church



Ruth Barrera

Co-coordinator
High School Youth Ministry
346-236-6464 * rbarrera@cgsgcc.church



Brandon Riojas

Co-coordinator
Middle School Youth Ministry
346-236-6464 * briojas@cgsgcc.church



Anna Spalding

Executive Assistant
Lay Ministry Teams and Faith Groups
346-236-6444 * aspalding@cgsgcc.church



Jackie Coba

Evangelization & Discipleship
Department Assistant
346-236-6458 * jcoba@cgsgcc.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@cgsgcc.church

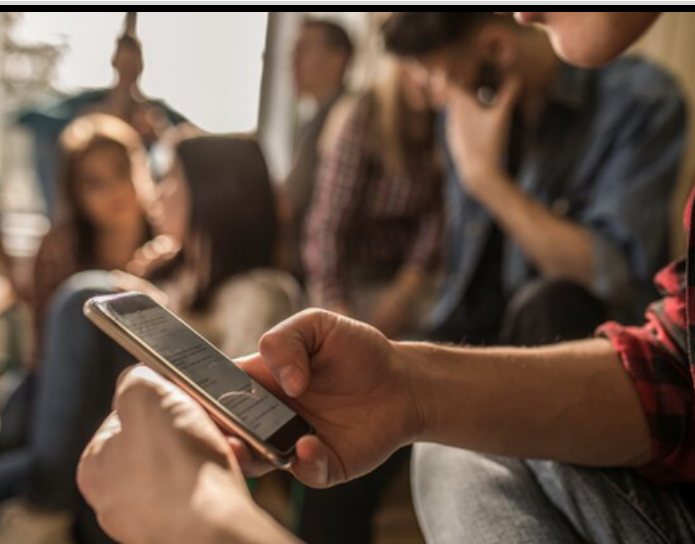


Our Vision Statement

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

"HELPING PEOPLE TO KNOW AND LOVE JESUS CHRIST."



discipleship@cgscscc.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 * 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.