

CGS FAMILY

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Volume III, Guide 51, November 12, 2023



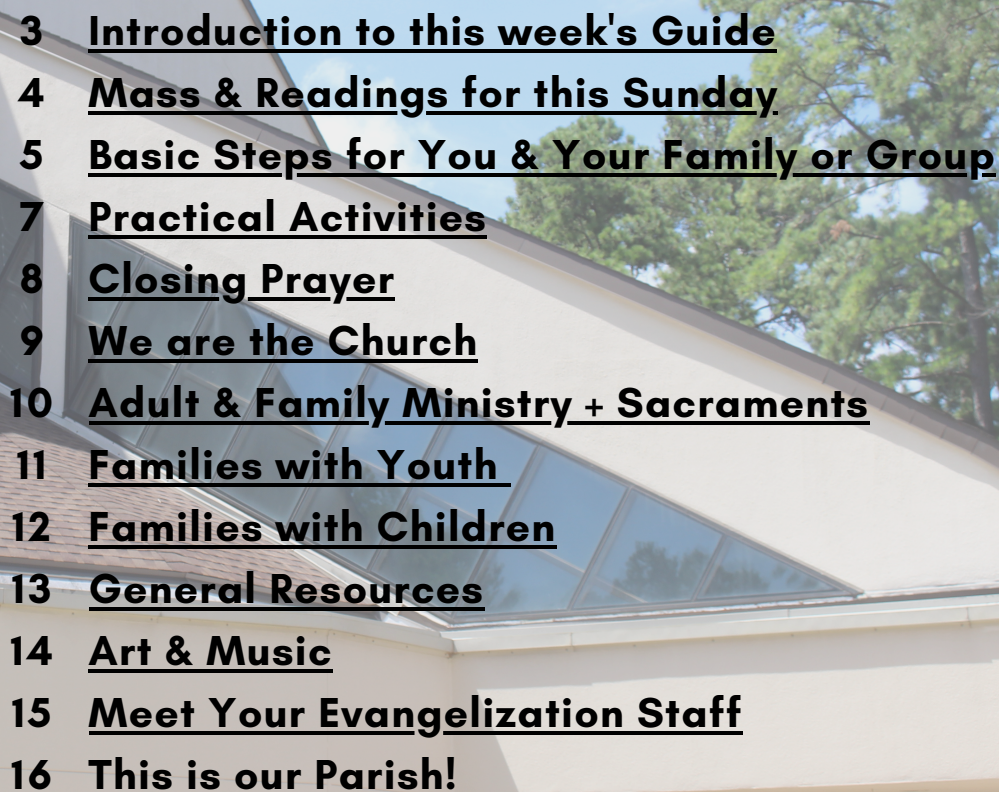
**What does it mean to be
prepared and vigilant?**

Jesús García Sanguinetti 2023

www.cgsgcc.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



Keep the Lamp Lit!

This week, Jesus provides us with the stark contrast between a group of wise virgins, who bring enough oil, and foolish virgins, who run out before the bridegroom comes. In those days, the Jewish wedding occurred at the bride's home. When the wedding ceremony was over, the wedding guests would travel to the bridegroom's home for the banquet. The bridesmaids were to wait at the bridegroom's home for the bridegroom and the procession to arrive. The bridesmaids had to be virgins according to Jewish custom. When the bridegroom arrived, the group would enter the home and the banquet would start.

Now, my guess is that the foolish virgins probably thought they had enough oil. They probably thought they were fine. And that's the problem. That's a dangerous place to be in our spiritual life.

It's risky to think we've "done enough good," we've "given enough to God," we're "fine," or that God will certainly let us in to heaven. We hold back from giving ourselves fully and, eventually, are surprised by how much we still lack. "The five wise virgins, watchful and alert", writes St. Macarios the Great, "had taken oil in the vessels of their heart. That oil, not part of their own nature, means the grace of the Spirit. They were enabled to enter with the Bridegroom into the heavenly bridal chamber." St. Macarios goes on to describe the condition of the other bridal party. "The other five virgins, however, were content with their own nature. They neither watched nor busied themselves to receive the oil of gladness (Psalm 45:8) in their vessels, while they were yet in the flesh. Instead, they sank into sleep through carelessness, slackness, idleness, and ignorance, or even fancied righteousness."

Therefore, we must be willing and we must always be seeking to discover "more", to know the Lord more, and to love the Lord more. This is the path of holiness: to hold nothing back, making our lives a complete gift of self. The more we learn about Christ and His Church, the more oil we receive.

Father David Michael Moses

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.

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

readings and podcasts, Year A

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)

First Reading: Wisdom 6: 12-16

Psalms 63: 2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18

Gospel: Matthew 25: 1-13



PAULUS MEDIA & CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC CHURCH

PRESENTS

This Weeks Gospel Message from Brandon Riojas
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

What does it mean to be prepared and vigilant?

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

We tend to not be fully prepared or not aware of something due to time. Do you think time affects our preparation? How so?



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:

- Must gather your resources before you can build your house. Proverbs 24:27
- You should be vigilant because the devil is trying to bring you down! 1 Peter 5:8
- Those who persevere against temptation avoid bad consequences. James 1:12

In the Catechism of the Catholic Church

- To fight against your selfish desires and to aid prayer, requires vigilance. #2730
- We must be mindful and aware of the consequences of original sin and our personal sins. #408
- We must always work on our relationship with Christ as to die in friendship with Him. #1023

"We are not dealing merely with a battle against the world and a worldly mentality that would deceive us and leave us dull and mediocre, lacking in enthusiasm and joy. Nor can this battle be reduced to the struggle against our human weaknesses and proclivities (be they laziness, lust, envy, jealousy or any others). It is also a constant struggle against the devil, the prince of evil. Jesus himself celebrates our victories. He rejoiced when his disciples made progress in preaching the Gospel and overcoming the opposition of the evil one: "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven" (Lk 10:18)."

Excerpt from Gaudete et Exsultate by Pope Francis

Discuss

1. Is there a difference between being prepared and vigilant? How so?
2. Can someone be too overly prepared for any given event or situation? Why or why not?
3. What consequences have I faced when I was not prepared for something? Give some examples.

Want more? Go Deeper!

What do the Lamp, the Oil, and Sleepiness
Symbolize in the Parable of the Ten Virgins



Reflection Question

Am I a vigilant or prepared person? What habits or mindset make me this way?

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 be more prepared and vigilant in my spiritual life and for others?

Practical Activities



For the Individual

What are you streaming?

We live in the most health conscience society of all time. Paleo, keto, gluten free, dairy free, and so much more. We know what we put into our bodies affects us, but do we know what we put into our minds can do the same? Take some time to go through your social media, music, and art. Are there any things that can taint our image toward God and or distract us from our spiritual life?



For Couples

Intentional Adoring

Find a time at the parish to intentionally sit in the presence of Christ. Use this time to pray for one another but also for yourselves. Pray about what and how you can stay spiritually strong in your relationship.



For the Domestic Church

Prayer Time Game Time

It's easy for family prayer time to get lost in such a busy lifestyle. Have a family meeting time to go over these [10 Family Prayer Ideas](#) that you can restart or start using for your time together either before bed or in the morning.



Missionary Mindset

The Daily Examen

"The Daily Examen is a technique of prayerful reflection on the events of the day in order to detect God's presence and discern his direction for us."

Making a Daily Examen can help us identify what in our life is distracting us from being spiritually prepared.



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

Gospel Canticle Luke 2:29-32 taken from Night Prayer in Liturgy of the Hours

Ant. Protect us, Lord, as we stay awake; watch over us as we sleep, that awake, we may keep watch with Christ, and asleep, rest in his peace.

**Lord, now you let your servant go in peace;
your word has been fulfilled:
my own eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared in the sight of every people:
a light to reveal you to the nations
and the glory of your people Israel.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be for ever. Amen.**

Ant. Protect us, Lord, as we stay awake; watch over us as we sleep, that awake, we may keep watch with Christ, and asleep, rest in his peace.

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?

What does it mean to be prepared and vigilant?

WE ARE THE CHURCH

What Makes us Catholic?

Purgatory

"Purgatory is a state of final purification after death, and before entrance into Heaven. Purgatory is the word the Church uses to describe this state of being. To understand Purgatory, it is important to know what happens after we die. At the moment of death, we undergo something called "particular judgement." There are three possible outcomes to this judgement. Based on a person's faith and life, they may go to Heaven, to Purgatory, or to Hell. The choice of fate is up to the individual."



Word of the Week - Perseverance

Perseverance is often connected to the virtue and gift of fortitude. This is the ability to endure obstacles especially the aspect of time. Perseverance helps us keep an eye on God and what is in front of us. This allows us to reject the worldly things and focus on the life-giving opportunities.

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.org // [Friday Homily: Give Me Oil in My Lamp](#)
- Catholic Answers // [How to Keep Your Lamp Full](#)
- Catholic World Report // [Virgins, Vigilance, and Judgement](#)

Videos

- **Formed**//**Opening the Word - Reflection on this week's Gospel Reading**
- Catholic Productions // [I Never Knew You](#) -- video (14:11)
- Catholic Community of Ascension and St. Augustine // [Being Vigilant](#) -- video (2:05)
- Father Roger Vandenkcker // [The Importance of Spiritual Vigilance](#) -- video (6:05)



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.

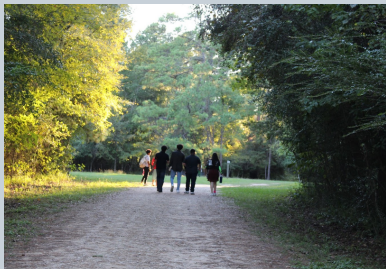
Sacramental Information



& 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 am I spiritually prepared?

Grades 5 & 6: "Venture" by Pflaum Publishing

Grades 7 & 8: "Visions" by Pflaum Publishing

Ascension Presents // Habitual Sin? Work Smarter Not Harder -- video (9:54)

Ascension Presents // Hell is Easier to Choose than You Think -- video (11:10)

Ascension Presents // Prayer for Beginners -- video (6:17)

Ascension Presents // You Are What You Stream -- video (7:54)

"Our earthly life is a preparation for the future life, and this preparation ends with our death. Then a man leaves all his earthly cares; the body disintegrates, in order to rise anew at the Resurrection. Often this spiritual vision begins in the dying even before death, and while still seeing those around them and even speaking with them, they see what others do not see."

Saint John the Wonderworker



Adolescence High School, Grades 9-12

Characteristics of Adolescents

Question: How am I spiritually prepared?

Ascension Presents // Habitual Sin? Work Smarter Not Harder -- video (9:54)

Ascension Presents // Hell is Easier to Choose than You Think -- video (11:10)

Ascension Presents // Prayer for Beginners -- video (6:17)

Ascension Presents // You Are What You Stream -- video (7:54)



Youth Gather at CGS

Middle school and High school meet every Wednesday 7-8:30pm and
Every Sunday from 5-6:30pm ending with Praise Songs from 6:30-7pm

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 can you get ready for something important?

"Seeds" by Pflaum Publishing

EWTN // [My Catholic Family: St. Elizabeth of Hungary](#) - video (30:00)

Catechist // [Living Faith Kids Calendar](#)



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

[Characteristics of Children](#)

Question: How can you prepare for something important?

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 Kids Bulletin // [November 12, 2023](#)

Catechist // [Living Faith Kids Calendar](#)

EWTN // [My Catholic Family: St. Elizabeth of Hungary](#) - video (30:00)



For Parents

[Strong Catholic Family Faith](#)

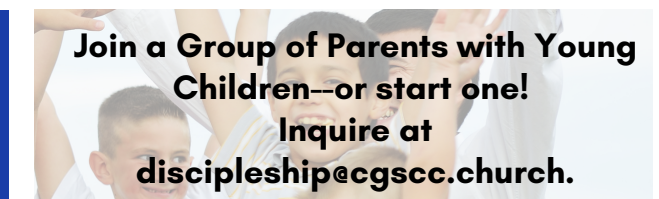
A project of Strong Catholic Families, Strong Catholic Youth Initiative



[Family Faith Practices](#)

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

**Inquire at
discipleship@cgscc.church.**



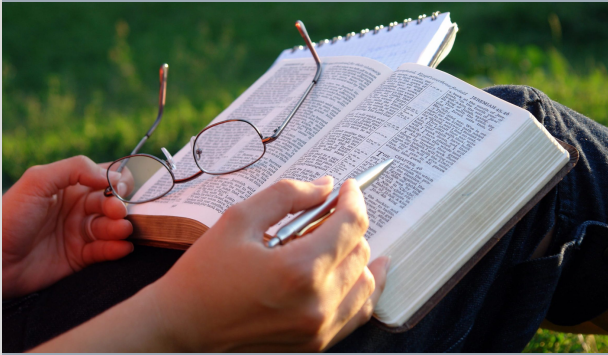
GENERAL RESOURCES

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 - 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.org // Prayer of St. Ambrose Before Mass
Aleteia // Catholic Night Time Prayers



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](https://formed.org)



Using Sacred Art to Bring the Faith Alive

[Sophia Institute](https://www.sophia.org)

Sacred Art to Inspire You

COVER IMAGE

Ten Virgins by Jorge Cocco, 2017



Parable of the Ten Virgins by Debi Bond

Music to Move You

Bethel Music // Prepare the Way -- lyrics (5:20)

Michael Ketterer // Spirit Lead Me -- video (5:20)

Elevation Worship // QUIET -- audio (3:46)

Still Morning // Making Me New -- audio (4:50)



Parable of the Ten Virgins by Ain Vares

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



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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

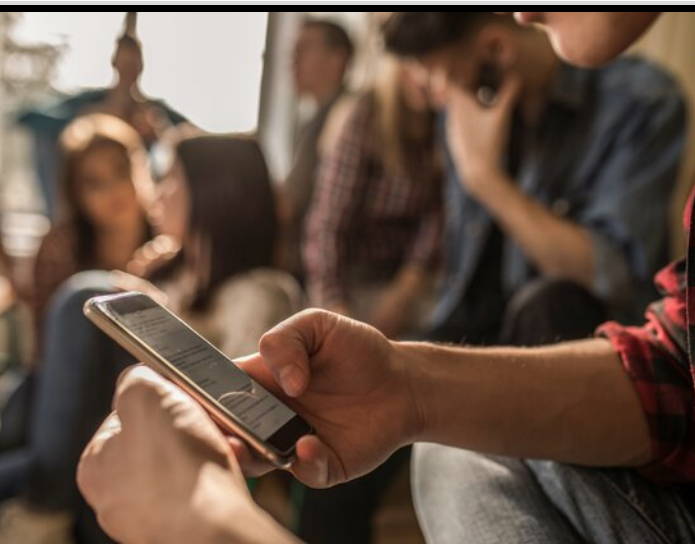


Our Vision Statement

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: cgscscc.church/cgs-family-guides

"HELPING PEOPLE TO KNOW AND LOVE JESUS CHRIST."



discipleship@cgscscc.church



Official Page:

[Christ the Good Shepherd Catholic Church](#)



[@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

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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 (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.