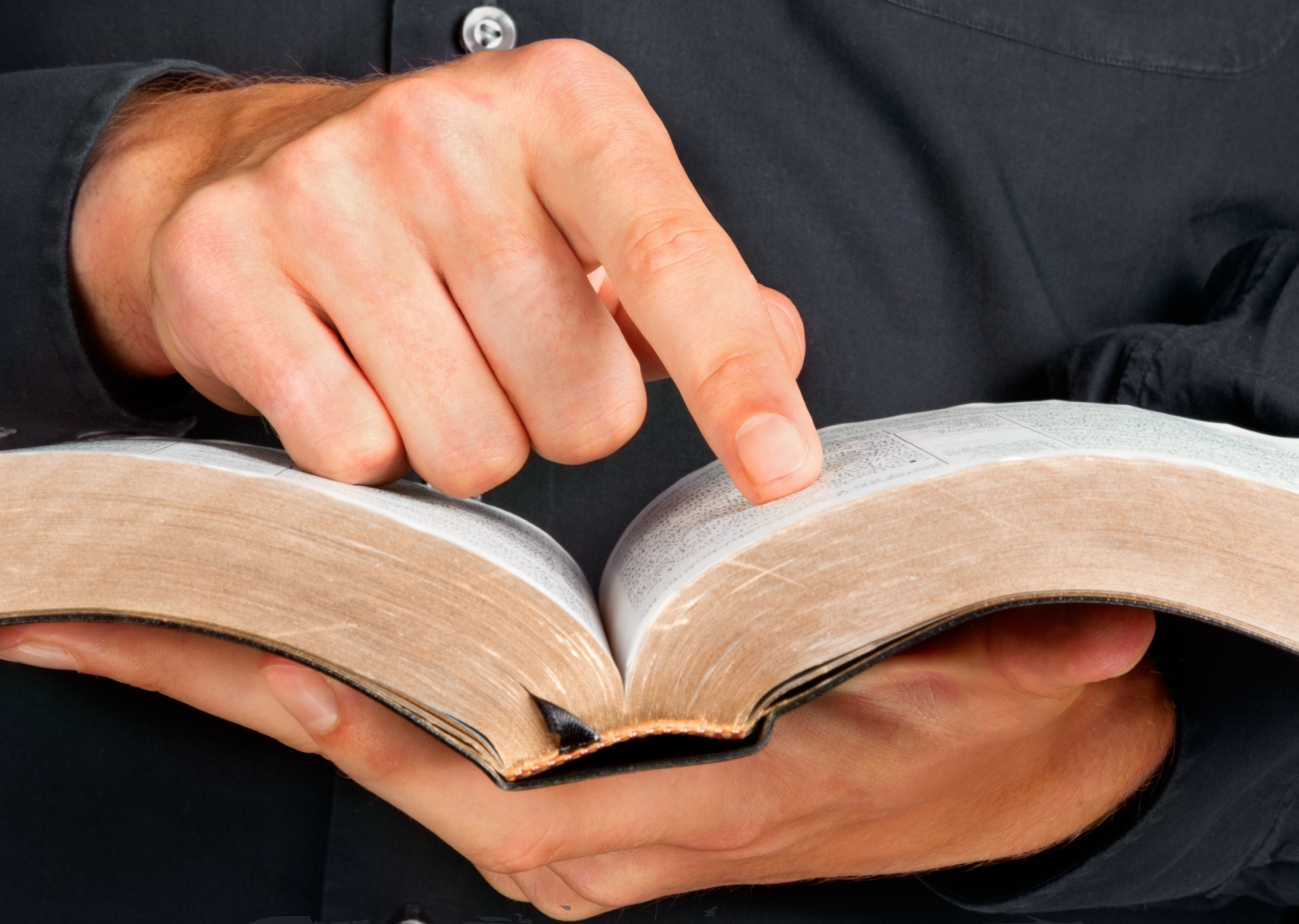


CGS FAMILY

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Volume III, Guide 50, November 5, 2023

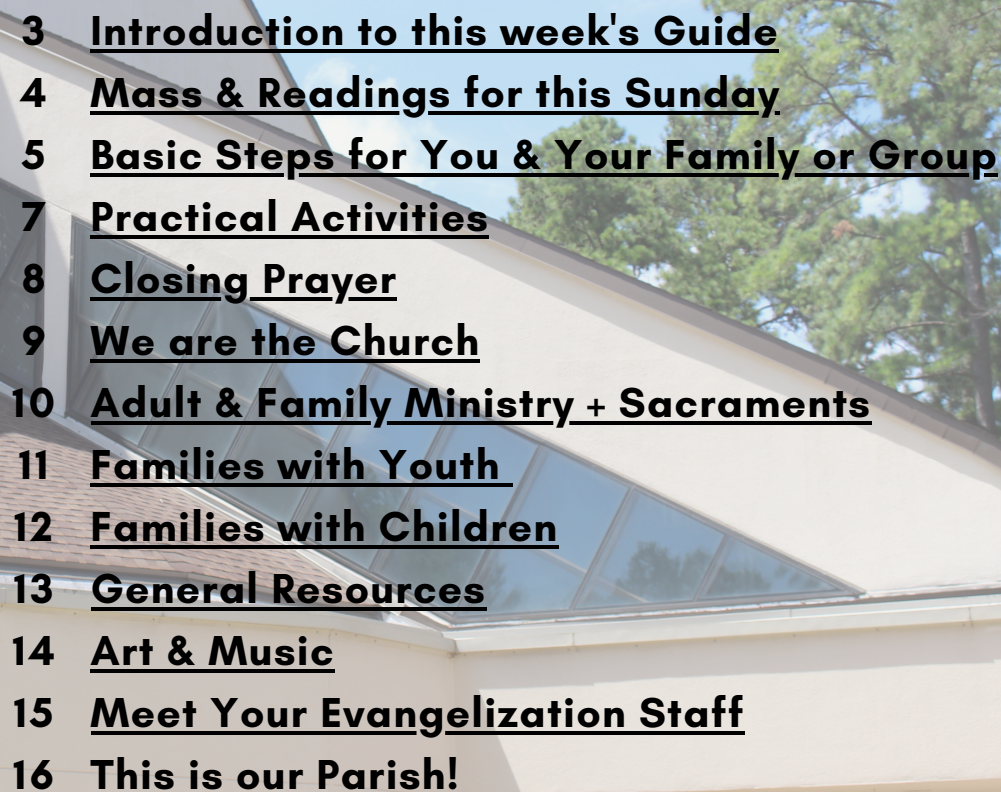


Do I practice what I preach?

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



Consistency and humility

Today's gospel continues to describe this unpleasant tension and controversy with the Jewish authorities that began in chapter 21, 23 and is now reaching its climax with these series of "Woes."

The text helps us perceive at a first level the background of the crucifixion of Jesus at the hands of the Jewish authorities of his time. But, on a second level, it takes us to the historical context of the author "Matthew" addressing his community (75-90 AD) who is in full and clear controversy with a Jewish group, probably from the sect of the Pharisees, of the Yamnia community. The leaders of the Yamnia community thought of themselves as the successors of Moses and therefore, they claimed his authority. The conflict between this Jewish group and the Christian community at the end of the first century is at a time of great tension and rejection that will end with the expulsion of Christians from Jewish synagogues.

It should be noted that their teachings were good, since they were based on great zeal for God and the Torah (the law of Moses). The underlying issue was more about certain inconsistencies between what they preached and what was "behind" or inside them, their intentions are the ones that are questioned. They did things for appearance, for power, for vainglory, to have or obtain the main places, to show their greatness and their superiority. That was the problem!

And what about US? In our times, we sometimes become judges or think we are superior to others, either because of what we know or because of our pious practices. Sometimes we can think that these place us above others. We must be very careful with this; that our desire to teach others is to authentically seek their good and the extension of the Kingdom of Heaven in our midst and that, as our question of the week invites us, we live authentically with an attitude of humility what we preach. From vainglory and pride... Deliver us Lord!

Jose Juan Valdez



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-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

readings and podcasts, Year A

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)

First Reading: Malachi 1: 14 – 2: 2, 8-10

Psalm 131: 1, 2, 3

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 2: 7-9, 13

Gospel: Matthew 23: 1-12



PAULUS MEDIA & CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC CHURCH

PRESENTS

This Weeks Gospel Message from Fr. David Michael Moses
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

Do I practice what I preach?

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 encountered people who say one thing and do another in my life?
How do I feel about that?



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:

- God knows your heart. Luke: 16:15
- Hypocrisy and pride go hand by hand. Sirach 1:29
- When evil resides in someone's heart, there is no peace. Psalms 55:22

In the Catechism of the Catholic Church

- Jesus as model for all disciples. He humbles himself, even as a "King". #520, 559
- The Ministry of the Church continues the office of Christ as teacher, priest, pastor. Its character as service #871-873, 876
- God as "Father" in the prayer to "Our Father" #238-240, 2786-2793



"Jesus also strongly condemns vainglory and assures that Acting "so that people may see it" (Mt 23:5) puts one at the mercy of human approval, threatening the values that found the authenticity of the person."

Pope Benedict XVI – Angelus October 30, 2011

Discuss

1. Do I know people who have integrated faith and life? What characteristics, values or principles seem to guide their daily life?
2. How can we live out Jesus' command to lead by serving others at home, at work, and in the parish?
3. How can we be a community that coherently lives what we preach?

Want more? Go Deeper!

St. Jerome Commentary



Reflection Question

- Am I a coherent person, who practices what I believe in my daily life?

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 live what I believe with those around me.

Practical Activities



For the Individual

One concrete way at a time.

Determine a concrete way to live your faith in an area of life that is difficult for you and this week make an effort to start working on it.



For Couples

Helping each other to live our faith.

Name an area where it is difficult for you to integrate faith. Share this with your spouse and vice versa and then together look for ways to help each other or seek help to live your faith more deeply.



For the Domestic Church

Going out to the encounter others.

At Holy Mass this Sunday, pay attention to those people who seem to be alone, who are visiting or who just seem different. Make an effort to make them feel welcome and at the end of Mass try to reach out and start a conversation.



Missionary Mindset

Connect with our Jewish brothers.

This week, make it a goal to learn more about Judaism by inviting a Jewish person that you know to share his/her faith with you, in order to promote a Jewish-Christian dialogue and exchange.



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

PRAYER

**Spirit of the Living God,
attract our imagination,
strengthen our will, give light to our spirit, so that
we learn to have deep convictions
and to live them more fully every day.
Jesus our Savior, strengthen our decision to follow
your path of service, to open our hearts to
forgiveness, to welcome the sinner and the saint
equally.
May we be able to integrate your path, your truth
and your life into our lives.
God, our Creator, source of all that exists, give us
the grace for living your path of love as we
encounter each other along our faith journey.
Blessed be your Holy Name.
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?

Do I practice what I preach?

WE ARE THE CHURCH

What Makes us Catholic?

Mendicant orders

It refers to those who divested themselves of all earthly goods as supported themselves by appealing to the charity of the alms. It started by two "notable" saints of the time (thirteenth century). Giovanni Francesco Bernardone of Assisi (St. Francis of Assisi) and Dominic Guzman of Old Castile (St. Dominic). There was a response to several issues happening in the world on those days including the response in vocations. Franciscans then years later after their founding there were already 5000 members.

The Catholic Encyclopedia



Word of the Week - HUMILITY.

The term "humility" comes from the latin word *humilitas*, a noun related to the adjective *humilis*, which may be translated as "humble", but also as "grounded", or "from the earth", since it derives from *humus* = dust. Is a supernatural virtue whereby one is enabled to make a true and just estimate of him/her self and is inclined to hold him/her self as his/her accomplishments in recognition that all good arises from God alone.

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

- *St. John Paul II* // **HOMILY OF THE HOLY FATHER JOHN PAUL II** -- Homily

Videos

- **Formed//Opening the Word - Reflection on this week's Gospel Reading**
- Catholic Productions // **Call No Man Father** -- Video (22:30)
- Ascension Presents // **Should Catholics Call Priests Father?** -- Video (7:17)
- Sundays with Ascension // **The Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time** -- Video (6:04)

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 show what I believe about Jesus?

Grades 5 & 6: "Venture" by Pflaum Publishing

Grades 7 & 8: "Visions" by Pflaum Publishing

Ascension Presents // Have You Mastered the Basics of your Faith? -- video (9:41)

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

Catholic News Service // Pope Francis: Practice What You Preach -- video (2:06)

Breaking in the Habit // The Nicene Creed Explained -- video (11:59)

"To be holy isn't easy, but it isn't difficult either.

To be holy is to be a good Christian, to resemble Christ. The more closely a person resembles Christ, the more Christian he is, the more he belongs to Christ, the holier he is."

(The Forge, #10)

-Saint Josemaria Escriva



Adolescence High School, Grades 9-12

Characteristics of Adolescents

Question: How do I show what I believe about Jesus?

Ascension Presents // Have You Mastered the Basics of your Faith? -- video (9:41)

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

Catholic News Service // Pope Francis: Practice What You Preach -- video (2:06)

Breaking in the Habit // The Nicene Creed Explained -- video (11:59)



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: Do I keep my promises?

"Seeds" by Pflaum Publishing

FORMED // Christine in Action: Good Morning Offering-- video (2:01)

The Kids Bulletin // November 5, 2023

Childhood Elementary, Grades 1-5

Characteristics of Children

Question: Am I willing to do what I ask others to do?

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 // My Catholic Family: St. Martin of Tours -- video (24:28)

Living Faith // Catholic Kids Monthly Calendar

The Kids Bulletin // November 5, 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@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

USCCB // Prayer to Live the Gospel, Be Disciples



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://www.formed.org)



Using Sacred Art to Bring the Faith Alive

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

Sacred Art to Inspire You



Following in His Footsteps by Brent Borup (above)

Music to Move You

Bejamin Josiah // [Disciple of Christ](#) -- Audio (3:12)

JJ Weeks Band // [Let Them See You](#) -- Video (4:13)



**DO YOU
WANT
YOUR CHILDREN
TO FOLLOW
IN YOUR
FOOTSTEPS?**

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

Meet Your Evangelization & Discipleship Staff

Helping Others to Know and Love Jesus Christ



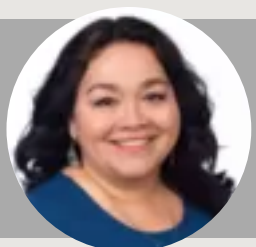
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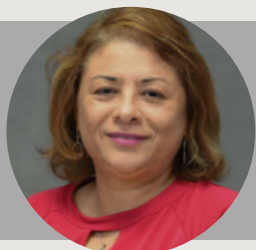
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The CHURCH EXISTS IN ORDER TO EVANGELIZE

...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@cgsgcc.church

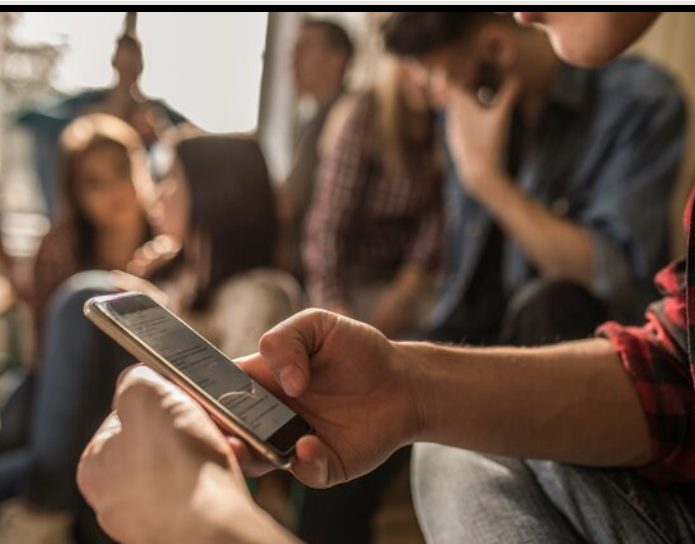


Our Vision Statement

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: cgscs.church/cgs-family-guides

"HELPING PEOPLE TO KNOW AND LOVE JESUS CHRIST."



discipleship@cgscs.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.

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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.