

CGS FAMILY

SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Volume III, Guide 13, February 19, 2023



**How is God calling me
to love beyond limits?**

www.cgscs.church

Welcome

HELLO,
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.



This Week

Heroic Love and Forgiveness

In this week's gospel, Jesus is very clear about the degree of love and forgiveness he asks of his disciples. We are expected to do things that seem illogical and unreasonable. How can anyone embrace this way of living? In his wisdom, Jesus points to something that is utterly necessary for our salvation and peace. It is important that we listen carefully because we know Jesus loves us and he wants us to be happy and fulfilled. Love is the fundamental guiding principal of the gospel message.*

You may have noticed the recent construction in the nave of our church, near the "quieting room." An alcove has been fashioned, and soon it will house (among other things) a relic of St. Mary Goretti, a young girl who, from her death bed, forgave the man who brutally attacked her. Though imprisoned, her forgiveness set him on a path of coming to know Jesus Christ. Years later, he attended her canonization ceremony when she was officially declared a saint of the Catholic Church. Maria's great love became a means for his salvation and healing for her family and for many others. She had rejected the young man's selfish advances and even when he struck those murderous blows she knew that condemning him in her heart would not do anyone any good, it would only bring destruction in her soul. Instead, she chose to live and die with the conviction that love is the only answer.

What limits do we place on loving others? Where are the places beyond which we are unwilling to go? In what ways might we still be clinging to old grudges and hurts? In what ways are we perhaps being lazy, making excuses, not giving of ourselves enough? We may think that heroic love is beyond what we are capable of doing, and indeed, loving as God loves can only be done with the grace of God. Let us explore in this Guide ways we can seek to offer love with great courage.

Ivana T. Meshell

*Points of Understanding, Grade 6--3.1.2



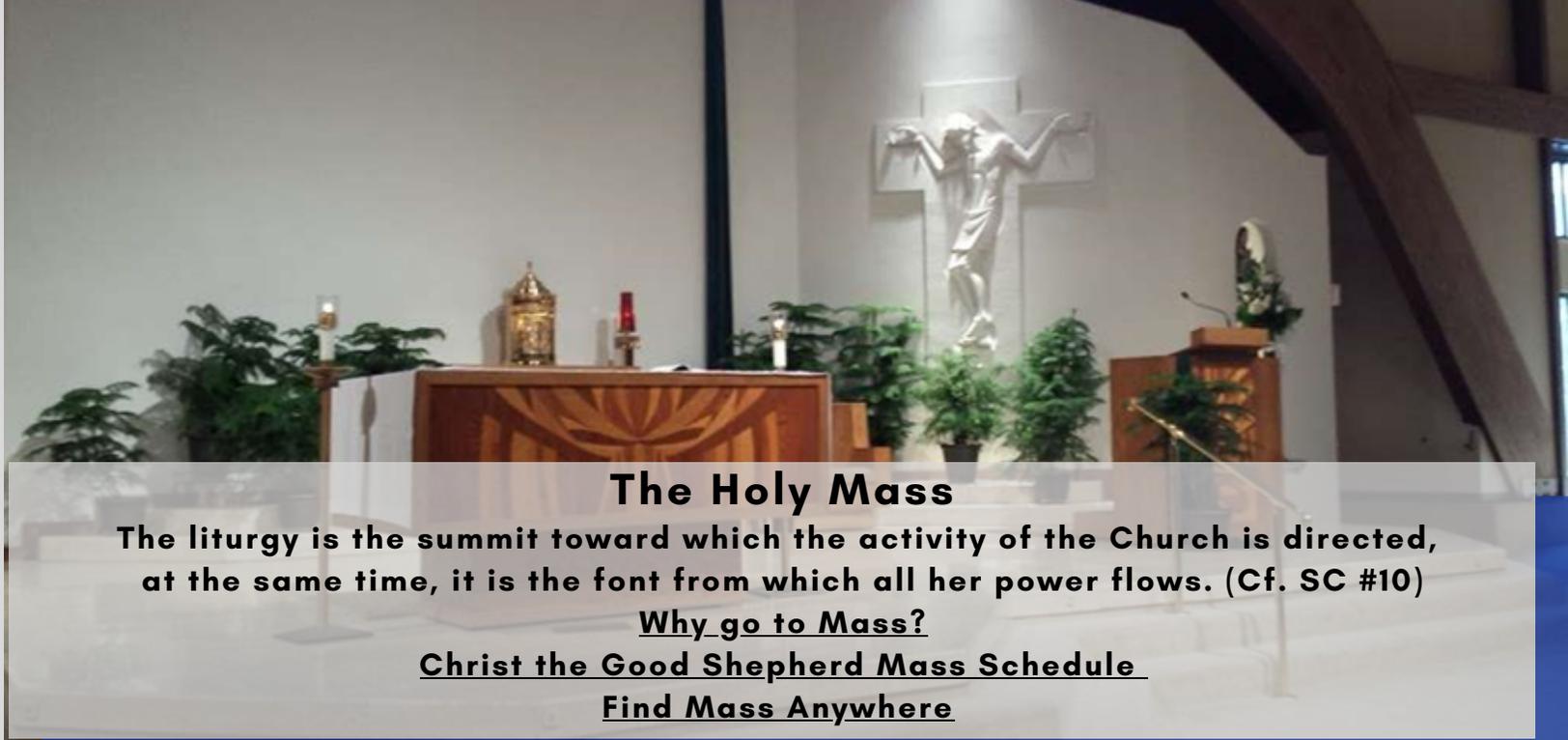
St. Maria Goretti



St. Maria Goretti

For questions, comments, and feedback, please contact us at

DISCIPLESHIP@CGSCC.CHURCH



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

Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time

readings and podcasts Year A

from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)

First Reading: Leviticus 19: 1-2, 17-18

Psalm 103: 1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 3: 16-23

Gospel: Matthew 5: 38-48

Additional options for studying and discussing the Word of God:

Opening the Word by FORMED

Reflecting on the Sunday Readings

Sunday Connection by Loyola Press

Children's Liturgy of the Word by Catholic TV

WE LEARN & BECOME DISCIPLES TOGETHER

Question of the Week

How is God calling me to love beyond limits?

Opening Prayer

CONNECT with our GOD

- Let's start with the [The Sign of Cross](#).
- In your own words, ask the Holy Spirit to be present as we gather so share our faith ([Prayer to the Holy Spirit](#)).
- Listen to the Lord speaking to you as someone reads out loud the Gospel for this Sunday (see previous page for links to Scripture readings for this week).
- Listen to each other as everyone shares what in the Gospel caught their attention.
- Pray the "[Glory be...](#)"

[More on how to manage a group discussion.](#)

Step One

CONNECT with our daily LIVES

Describe the life of someone you think shows (or showed) love to a great degree, more than what is "reasonably" expected. Name some of the qualities of this person and what made him/her show "above average," courageous, or "heroic" love.

All
underlined
text is
linked!
Just click!

Getting
Started

[How to use
this Guide.](#)

[Why are we
doing this?](#)



St. Joan of Arc

Using this Guide can be as simple or as in depth as you want. If you do only the opening prayer section, that's great! To go deeper, follow the steps as shown. For children, see "Resources," page 8.

Step Two

CONNECT with Scripture and Tradition

As a domestic church (your household) or Small Faith Group, pray and read through some of the following (you can select) Scriptures & Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) references as time permits.

In the HOLY SCRIPTURE we read:

- Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you **Colossians 3:12-14**
- Giving ourselves to Jesus Christ in faith will not be redemptive if we do not also love our brothers and sisters **James 2:14-20** & **1 John 3:17; 4:20**
- "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends" **John 15:13**

In the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC), we read:

- Jesus loved us to the end, and commands that we love the way he loves. **#1822-1829**
- The only way it is possible to love in the radical, unselfish way Jesus loves is when we are transformed by the Holy Spirit through prayer. **#2745**
- Jesus' teaching on forgiveness takes it to a whole new level. **#2842-2845**

Discussion Questions

1. What are some of the positive benefits of loving and forgiving others?
2. What difficulties do people encounter when trying to love and forgive as Jesus asks? What makes this hard? Give reasons for your answer.
3. Do you think that Jesus' command to love and forgive is relevant--or even possible--in today's world? Why or why not?
4. Why is it not possible to love like Jesus loves unless we become people of prayer?

Want more? Go Deeper with Forgiveness and Forgiving

Reflection Question

Since the beginning of this year, in what ways have you found ways to show love to others, particularly those who might "deserve" it the least, yet need it the most?

As we are about to start Lent, in what ways could I increase my efforts to love and forgive as Christ would have me do?



RESOURCES FOR ALL AGES

For related information, activities, and age-appropriate resources, turn to the *Resources for All Ages* section of this Guide. You may use as many or as few as you want to. Adapt to your situation and your household. You can even spread these activities over the span of the entire week. There is no wrong way to do this!

Step Three



CONNECT with OTHERS...

Living the Gospel with commitment & action.

What is one thing you are willing to change in your life so that you can let go of grievances; forgive someone for past hurts and offenses so that you can discover new life within you?

Practical Activities

For the Individual

Forgive Like a Saint

Consider the ways in which your parents, grandparents, or other family members may have failed you or not lived up to your expectations. Make a firm resolution to let go of the past, even if these persons "didn't earn it and don't deserve it" so that you can move on in peace and not pass the negativity down to the next generation.

For Couples

Use the Sacrament of Reconciliation

This is the third week in a series of four weeks for which **Fr. James** is sending our parishioners and article about the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) and forgiveness. Use this sacrament as a means to heal hurts in your life and in your marriage. Need help? Ask any priest, deacon, or staff member.

For the Domestic Church

Seek Companions on the Journey of Forgiveness

Deep wounds can be difficult to heal without the help of others. Sometimes it's finding good friends to share your burdens with; sometimes professional counseling is needed. Our parish offers Rejoice Counseling, if you or someone in your household needs someone to talk with.

Missionary Mindset

Partner With Others

No one gets through this life alone. We especially do not get through the spiritual life without the companionship of other Christians who also love God and are doing their best to live a virtuous life. Consider joining or forming a small Faith Group at CGS. Don't know how? Need help? Talk to any Evangelization staff member or write to Anna Spalding at discipleship@cgscchurch.org.

REJOICE COUNSELING

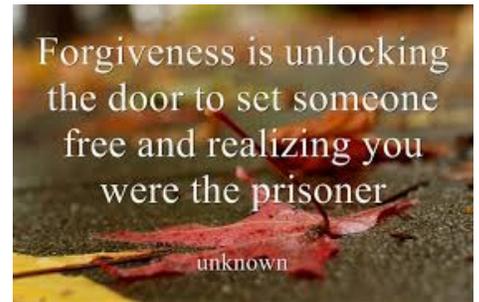
Laura Aguirre, MA, LPC, CGS Parish Counselor

Your Journey to Joy Begins Here! We want you to celebrate your life, but sometimes emotional pain and broken relationships can steal your joy. So, if you are in need of professional counseling for emotional, psychological, or relationship healing, turn to Rejoice Counseling.



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.



Prayer

Collect

opening prayer of the Mass

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that, always pondering spiritual things, we may carry out in both word and deed that which is pleasing to you. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.



There are two irreconcilable enemies in the depth of every soul: good and evil, sin and love. And what use are the victories of the battlefield if we are ourselves defeated in our innermost personal selves?

St. Maximilian Kolbe

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 is God calling me to love beyond limits?



Join us for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Come as you are. Bring your family. We need prayer.

[See the schedule on our parish website.](#)

RESOURCES FOR ALL AGES



POINTS OF UNDERSTANDING

Clear statements of the Church's teachings
Where they come from and ways to use them.



All
underlined
text is
linked!
Just click!

1. Age-Specific Resources

Early Childhood (Ages 3-5)

Question: Jesus acts with kindness; how can we act with kindness?

"Seeds" by Pflaum Publishing.

EEWTN // Hi Lucy Forgiveness - Video (14:14)

EWTN // My Catholic | Family Saint Maximilian Kolbe -- video (20:28)

Childhood (Elementary, Grades 1-5)

Question: Jesus acts with kindness; how can we act with kindness?

Grades K-1: "**Promise**" by Pflaum Publishing and

Grades 2,3 &4: "**Good News**" by Pflaum Publishing.

EWTN // My Catholic | Family Saint Maximilian Kolbe -- video (20:28)

Complete A Forgiving Heart worksheet.

Formed // Catholic Heroes of the Faith--videos.

Sophia Institute // Ready to Use Lesson for Each Sunday

Early Adolescence (Jr.High, Grades 6-8)

Question: Is there someone that you need to forgive?

What is keeping you from offering your forgiveness?

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

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

Life Teen // Hatred and Forgiveness -- article

Ascension Presents // The Price of Forgiveness -- video (5:34)

Adolescence (High School, Grades 9-12)

Question: Is there someone that you need to forgive?

What is keeping you from offering your forgiveness?

Life Teen // Hatred and Forgiveness -- article

Ascension Presents // The Price of Forgiveness -- video (5:34)

Ascension Presents // What Can You Do When Another

Won't Forgive? -- video (7:23)

HELPFUL TIPS!

Create a prayer table or space.

Faith Groups at CGS

Age-Specific Resources for Parents

Age-specific materials for early childhood through 8th grade are now available for you to use along with this Guide. Contact Jackie Coba in the parish office or by email. 346.236.6459 ex. 342 or jcoba@cgsc.catholic



Let the Children of Divorce

Come to Me

Original Art by Michael Corsini



Forgiveness is modeled just like gratitude is modeled.

[Adulthood](#)

Mother of the America's Institute // [You Were Made for Heroic Love](#)--article.

Ruth Kennedy // [How to Move on When You Can't Forgive](#)--article.

John Clark--The Magis Center // [The Amazing Story of Maximillian Kolbe \(and Why it Matters Now, More than Ever](#)--article--8 minute read.

Catholic Link // [How to Move on When You Can't Forgive](#)--article.

Bishop Robert Barron Word on Fire Show // [How to Forgive People](#)--video (3:35).

2. 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 ([learn more](#)) as well as [other approved translations](#). You may purchase from any vendor and we do have some basic editions on hand at the parish office at no charge--available upon request.



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 it is free for you to use. Register at www.formed.org - Need help? Watch this video.

Counseling, Grief Support & 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 **Grief Support** ministry for those who have lost loved ones and [Spiritual Direction](#) for anyone interested. Follow the links or inquire through the parish office.

Common Prayers and Formulas to Learn by Heart

and a [chart showing at what age level they should be learned.](#)



Litany of Forgiveness

Pray on your own or with others.

Music to Move You

Franciscan Friars of the Renewal // [Brother](#) -- video (3:41)

Shane and Shane // [That's How You Forgive](#) --video (3:18)

Matthew West // [Forgiveness](#) -- video (4:25)

Sacred Art to Inspire You

All Sacred Art Currently on Formed (parish subscription free to our parishioners--register once, get access to all content) All Sacred Art - FORMED

Angela Chostner // [Forgiveness](#)--acrylic on canvas

Zahrdadka Art & Illustration // [St. Joan of Arc](#), Oil on Canvas.

Pieter Lastman (Amsterdam 1583-1633) // [The Good Samaritan](#), oil on canvas.

Jyotika Shroff // [Compassion](#)

Marlyn Boyd // [Caring, A Nurse's Tradition](#)

Forgiveness is the key that unlocks the door of resentment and the handcuffs of hatred. It is a power that breaks the chains of bitterness and the shackles of selfishness.
— Corrie Ten Boom



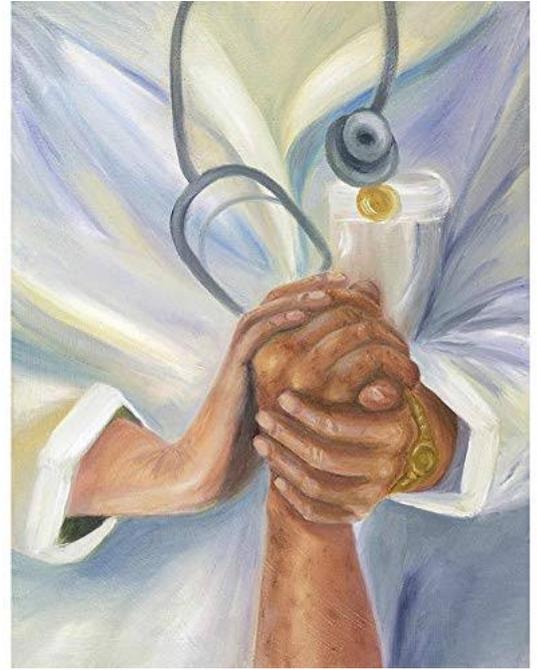
3. Sacramental Information & Becoming Catholic!

Visit the sacraments section of our parish website to find everything you need to get started with any sacrament. Information is being continually updated. Contact our parish office if you have a question.

What Makes us Catholic?

Love (Charity) is the Greatest Virtue

The Catholic theological virtue of "love" is actually called charity because it has a more nuanced meaning in the Scriptures than does "love." It defines charity as means participating in tangible acts of loving-kindness toward all others (friend or enemy) in unconditional and self-sacrificial ways. Love (charity) may need to suffer or face things it does not prefer, but it does rejoice in the truth to the benefit of others. Charity, the form of all the virtues, "binds everything together in perfect harmony" Col 3:14.



HOW HAVE YOU SEEN GOD PRESENT AND ACTIVE IN YOUR LIFE THIS WEEK?

Word of the Week - **Charity**

Charity is the highest form of love, signifying the reciprocal love between God and man that is made manifest in unselfish love of others. The simplest way we can express charity is to speak, act and think with love. We must keep in mind that charity is all about love, and as it says in St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians: "Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, [love] is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth" 1 Cor 13:4-7).

Book Suggestions

Saints of the Month by Jeremy Hearne



More for your Domestic Church

A Domestic Church is your household of believers in Jesus Christ. View a short video on what is the Domestic Church. See also this reference in the Catechism of the Catholic Church: CCC 1655-1858 and our Glossary of Terms. There is so much at CGS for your Domestic Church! See our website, social media pages, YouTube, and this week "**FLOCKNOTE**" for all things CGS!

"Faith Groups" on our Website

Find resources for your family, including how to use this Guide, family traditions from other parishioners, FAQs, how to use the Points of Understanding, a Glossary of Terms and more. Visit cgscddogh.org/faith-groups OR scan the QR code on the right with your smart phone. Join a small Faith Group in our parish or tell us about a group you are already a part of. Contact discipleship@cgscchurch





Christ the Good Shepherd Catholic Community Vision Statement
Building a community of love and hope by putting our faith into action.

WE WANT OUR PARISHIONERS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THIS GUIDE!

How is this Guide working for you and your family?

Show us what your family is doing with these Guides!

Share an idea, a resource or picture/video of what you are doing in your Domestic Church.

DISCIPLESHIP@CGSCC.CHURCH

"HELPING PEOPLE TO KNOW AND LOVE JESUS CHRIST."



Text CGS to 84576 to join us on Flocknote.

You will receive emails & texts from CGS according to your preferences.



CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC COMMUNITY



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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 and the Curriculum Framework for Lifelong Faith Formation of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston under the pastoral care of Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, Archbishop.