

# CGS FAMILY

**THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**Volume III, Guide 10, January 29, 2023**



**According to the teaching  
of Jesus, what is the  
Kingdom of Heaven like?**

**[www.cgsgcc.church](http://www.cgsgcc.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

#### Living Like Heaven-Bound People

How often do you think about heaven? Some years ago, Stephen Covey wrote *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*; the second "habit" he states is: "Begin with the end in mind." Certainly this is what Jesus is doing this as he tells us in today's gospel what true happiness is and how to attain it. If you want to know what Jesus expects his disciples to be about, if you want to know what heaven-bound people are like, listen carefully to the Beatitudes.

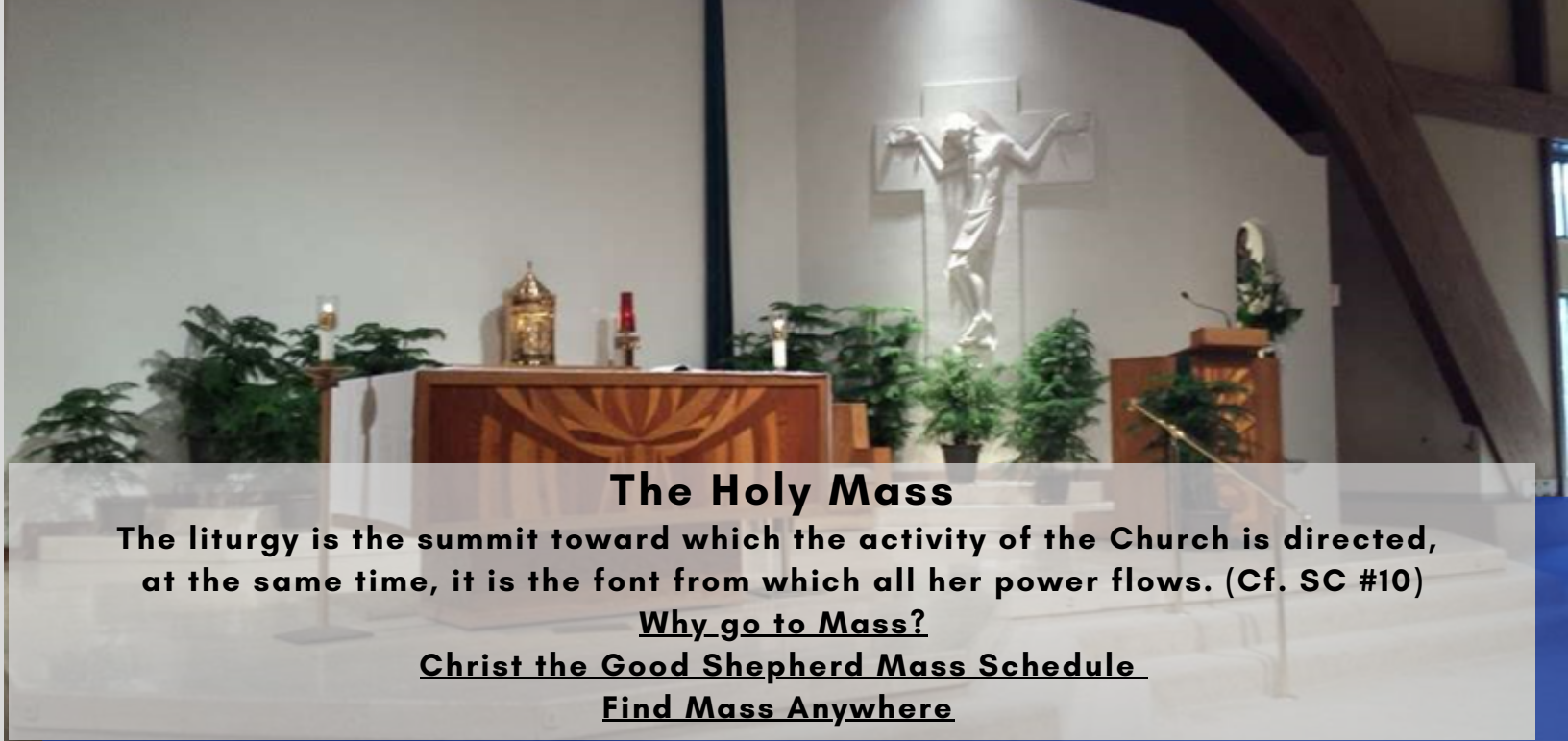
The Kingdom of God is here and unfolding in the world today, but is not in its final form. It is an "already" but "not yet" reality. In this life we experience a foretaste of it as we await its fullness in the life to come. Our natural end is to attain perfect union with God, which has been planned from the beginning by God himself. Heaven is the ultimate end and fulfillment of the deepest human longings, the state of supreme, definitive happiness, the joy of being and living with God. It is everything we ever wanted.

The Beatitudes are at the heart of Jesus' preaching and a guide of how to live.\* They are our guide on the journey toward the Kingdom of Heaven. What is this Kingdom? What is it like? Why should we strive for it at all? Let us explore in this CGS FAMILY Guide what Jesus teaches us about the Kingdom of Heaven.

**Ivana T. Meshell**

\*Points of Understanding, Grade 10, #1.3.5 & Grade 3, #3.2.7

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**

**Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time**

**Readings & Podcasts (Year A)**

**from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)**

First Reading: Zephaniah 2: 3, 3: 12-13

Psalm 146: 6-7, 8-9, 9-10

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1: 26-31

Gospel: Matthew 5: 1-12

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

According to the teaching of Jesus, what is the Kingdom of Heaven like?

### 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

What do you think of when you think of the "Kingdom of God?" Describe what you think the Kingdom of Heaven is like.

All  
underlined  
text is  
linked!  
Just click!

Getting  
Started

[How to use  
this Guide.](#)

[Why are we  
doing this?](#)



Jesus' life is an example of preaching the Kingdom of God through word and deed, and Christians are called to do likewise..

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:

- The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel--**Mark 1:15**
- "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven--**Matthew 7:21**
- Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these"--**Matthew 19:14**
- In the parable of the sheep and the goats, Jesus teaches us that active love toward the poor of every kind is a condition for entering his kingdom--**Matthew 25:31-46**

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

- The kingdom belongs to the poor and lowly, which means those who have accepted it with humble hearts. **#544**
- The coming of God's Kingdom means that Satan's kingdom is now defeated--**#550**.
- Jesus invites sinners to the table of the kingdom--**#545**
- One must enter the kingdom (that is, become a disciple of Christ), in order to "know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven"--**#546**

### Discussion Questions

1. The first and core message of Jesus' preaching was: "The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." Why do you think this was so important to him?
2. What do you think is necessary for a person to enter the Kingdom of God?
3. Can sinners enter the Kingdom of Heaven? Explain your answer.
4. Why do you think it is necessary to become a disciple of Christ in order to "know the secrets of heaven?"

### Want more? Go Deeper!

#### Reflection Question

The work of each person in God's Kingdom is promoting action for the common good. How are my actions promoting the Kingdom of God? How might they be taking away from it?



The terms "Kingdom of Heaven" and "Kingdom of God" appear many times in Scripture. Matthew uses the term "Kingdom of Heaven;" Mark and Luke use "Kingdom of God." Catholics believe both terms mean the same thing.

## 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 can you do to make the Kingdom of God more visible to the people around you? In what ways can you be a more "Kingdom-bound Christian?"

**The family has the mission to become a community of life and love in an effort that will find fulfillment in the Kingdom of God.**

Points of Understanding  
Mature Adults (MA) #5.3.1



## Practical Activities

*For the Individual*

### Mirror Reminder

As an individual, we need encouragement and a reminder from time to time. Grab a sticky note and write a reminder such as "You are made for Heaven" or "Lord, make me the saint you want me to be." Post this note on your bathroom mirror as a reminder for you each day.

*For Couples*

### Choose Entertainment Wisely

As married persons, our job is to help our spouse get to heaven. One way of doing this is to be careful when choosing our entertainment. Select movies and games that reinforce values we want to live by, and avoid those that place poor messages in our minds and distract us from our true goal.

*For the Domestic Church*

### Be the First to Reach Out to Another Family

Faith communities are called to nourish and support Christians and family life. Find at least one other family to connect with at CGS. Be the first to say hello, start a conversation, get to know one another. Yes, it might be a little hard at first--chances are you won't regret it! Need help? Don't know where to start? Ask any staff member, especially Anna Spalding in our parish office or write [discipleship@cgscc.church](mailto:discipleship@cgscc.church).



**Anna Spalding**

*Missionary Mindset*

### Build the Kingdom of God at *Christ the Good Shepherd*

Every Catholic has a role in the life of their local faith community and the universal Church. Consider becoming part of a lay ministry team focused on praying and tending to the spiritual and material needs of our parishioners. Contact Anna Spalding in our parish office to learn more or write [discipleship@cgscc.church](mailto:discipleship@cgscc.church).



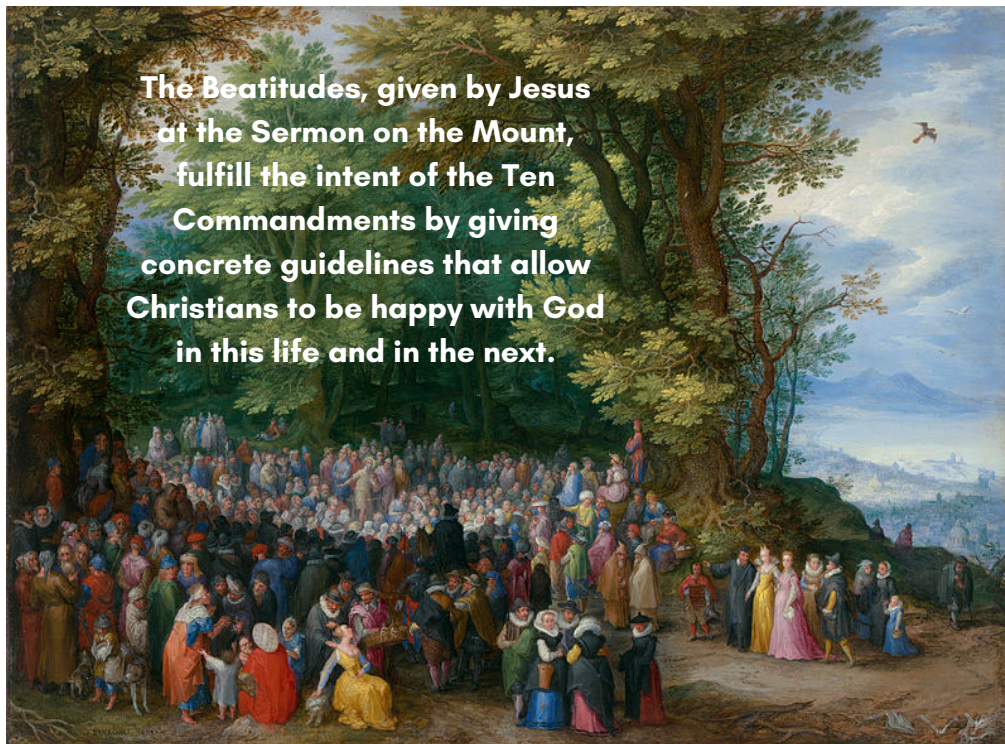
# Closing Prayer

- 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.
- 

## Collect, 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Opening prayer of the Mass

Grant us, Lord our God, that we may honor you with all our mind, and love everyone in truth of heart. 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.



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### 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?

**According to Jesus' teachings, what does the Kingdom of Heaven like?**



### 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.



## 1. Age-Specific Resources

### Early Childhood (Ages 3-5)

**Question:** What do you think Heaven will be like?

"**Seeds**" by Pflaum Publishing.

EWTN // My Time with Jesus - Ep.46-Heaven -- Video (28:42)

Close your eyes and picture what Heaven is like. Draw a picture of what you saw when you used your imagination.

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

**Question:** What do you think Heaven will be like?

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

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

EWTN // My Time with Jesus - Ep.46-Heaven -- Video (28:42)

Close your eyes and picture what Heaven is like. Draw a picture of what you saw when you used your imagination.

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

**Question:** What do you think Heaven will be like?

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

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

Catholic Central // Life After Life: The Catholic View of Heaven and Hell -- video (7:12)

Ascension Presents // Do All Good People go to Heaven? -- video (11:04)

Pints With Aquinas // Will Heaven Get Boring? --video (7:46)

### Adolescence (High School, Grades 9-12)

**Question:** What do you think Heaven will be like?

Pints With Aquinas // Will Heaven Get Boring? --video (7:46)

99 Catholics // Description of Heaven by St. Augustine -- video (10:47)

Augustine Institute // What is Heaven Like with Chris Stefanick -- video (5:03)

Catholic Answers // Where is Heaven Located? -- video (4:02)

## 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. They are easy to use. The cost is \$25.00 per set, per year.**

**Reserve and pick up your copies by contacting Jackie Coba in the parish office or by email. 346.236.6459 ex. 342 or [jcoba@cgscc.church](mailto:jcoba@cgscc.church)**

All  
underlined  
text is  
linked!  
Just click!





## Adulthood

### Videos

Bishop Robert Barron // The Mass: The Closest Thing to Heaven -- video (1:34)

Catholic Answers // Do We See Our Loved Ones in Heaven? -- video (4:28)

Divine Mercy // What is Heaven Like? -- video (1:24:33)

Bishop Robert Barron // The Heavenly City -- video (14:20)

CNS // Heaven isn't a Fairytale -- video (1:55)

### Articles

Catholic Education Resource Center // Fourteen Questions About Heaven

Tim Staples, Catholic Answers // What is Heaven Like?

Diocese of St. Paul // Beatitudes--Roadmap to Sainthood



## 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 free for you to use. Register at [www.formed.org](http://www.formed.org) – Just click "Sign Up as a Parishioner." 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.](#)

### **Prayers and Praying**

[Praying with Art: Commentary on Sermon on the Mount by Hungarian painter Károly Ferenczy](#)  
(shown below)--You Tube, 8:09.

### **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](#)

#### COVER ART

[The Sermon on the Mount by  
Fra Angelico 1387 - 1455](#)

Fresco painted on the cell walls of the  
San Marco Convent, Florence, Italy  
(204 x 207 cm)

### **Music to Move You**

Elevation Worship // [Here As In Heaven](#) -- live (8:17)

Isla Vista Worship // [Opened Up the Heavens](#) -- music audio (4:32)

Hillsong Worship // [Touch of Heaven](#) -- live (7:03)

Phil Wickham // [Hymn of Heaven](#) -- live (4:27)

Patrick Lenk // [Pange Lingua Gregorian Chant](#) -- audio (4:59)

### **Sermon on the Mount by Károly Ferenczy Oil on Canvas, 1896.**



## *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.



# WE ARE THE CHURCH

## What Makes us Catholic?

Catholics gather in communities of baptized persons, called parishes, to worship and celebrate the sacraments, to hear and proclaim God's Word, and to look forward to the coming of the Kingdom of God.

(Points of Understanding, Grade 5, #5.4.2)

We understand ourselves to be one, worldwide Church. All of us, by worship, words, and actions are called by Christ to welcome and work for the Kingdom of Heaven here on earth--God's properly ordered way of doing things. Our purpose is to look forward to the fulfillment of the Kingdom and to cooperate with God's grace.



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

### Word of the Week - Eschatology

Eschatology coming from the Greek word "eschaton" meaning the last things. It is the awareness of the last things as far as a person's final relationship with God. It also relates to the questions of heaven, purgatory, and hell. Eschatology when regarding heaven focuses on the journey to heaven but also the presence in heaven.

### 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](http://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.org](mailto:discipleship@cgscchurch.org)





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**



**@CGSYOUTH**

18511 Klein Church Rd. Spring, TX 77379

(281) 376-6831

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.