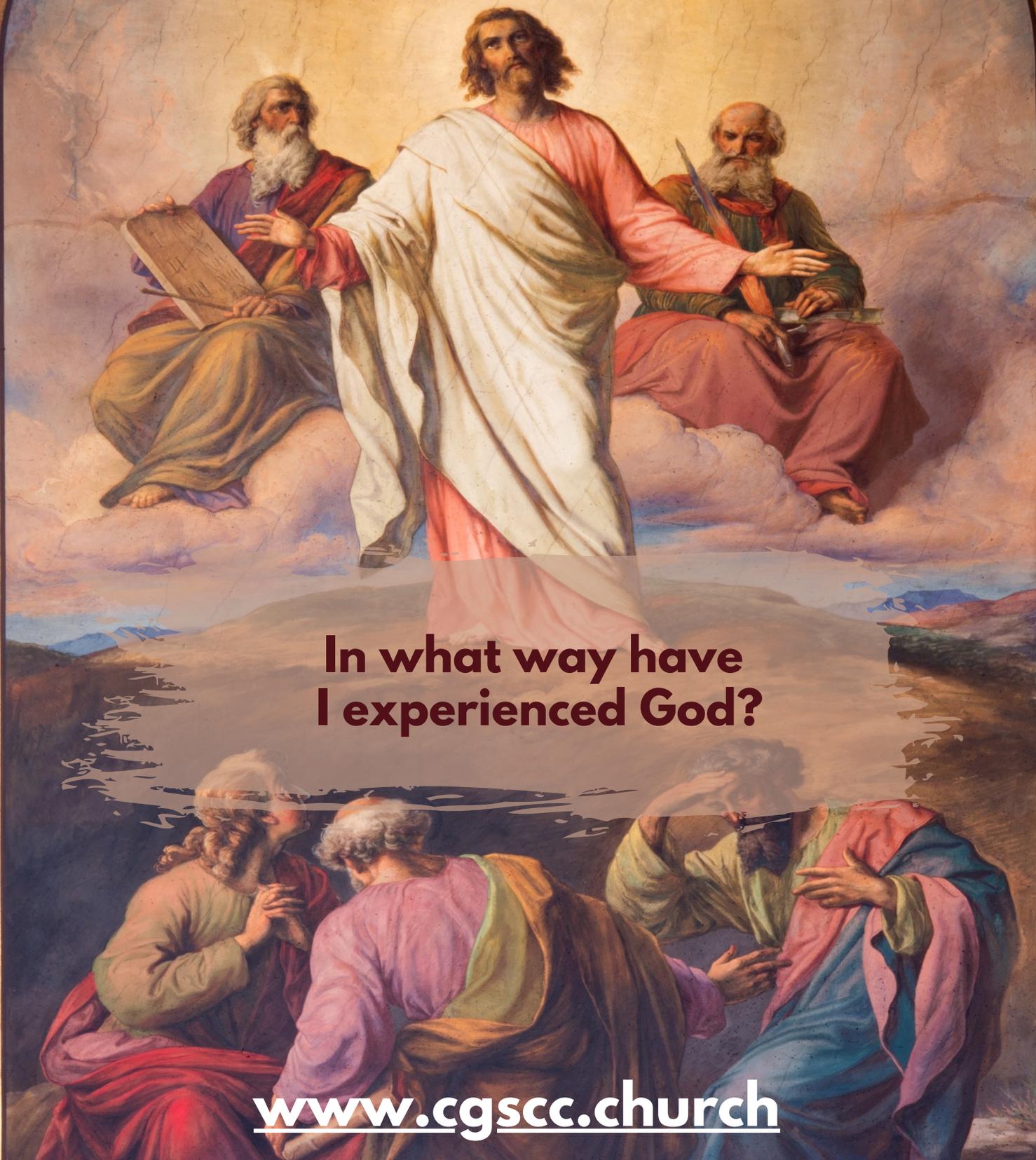


CGS FAMILY

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Volume III, Guide 15, March 5, 2023



**In what way have
I experienced God?**

www.cgscchurch.com

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

"Little Pieces of Heaven"

Hello once again... In last week's Gospel we reflected on Jesus' temptations in the wilderness. This Sunday's Gospel presents us the account of the Transfiguration of the Lord on Mount Tabor. In both episodes they anticipate the paschal mystery of Christ: the temptations, on one hand, the struggle of Jesus precludes the great final test and suffering of the Passion; on the other hand, the light of His transfigured body anticipates the glory of His final victory in the Resurrection.

The mountain in the Bible represents the place of closeness to God and the intimate encounter with Him.

At the top of Mount Tabor, Jesus shows himself to the three disciples (Peter, James, and John) transfigured, luminous, beautiful; and to crown the moment, Moses and Elijah appear conversing with Him. (Representing the whole O.T., the Law, and the Prophets). Everything is so beautiful that Jesus' face and its garments shine in a supernatural way, that Peter was stunned, he wanted to stay there.

Have you ever experienced in your life a moment so full of God's presence that you wanted to stay there? I, myself call these moments in my life, "my little pieces of heaven". In those moments when I have felt so close to the presence of God, when I feel flooded with his love, there are no words that will do justice because that experience surpasses everything by far. Yes it is true, they are few, I can count them with my fingers... some have happened in a spiritual retreat and others definitely in the birth of my children (Natalia, Diego and Emilio). Unfortunately, we cannot remain up there, because after that encounter with God we have to "come down from the mountain" to continue our own journey of faith while we encourage our brothers and sisters, and in difficult times even ourselves when we get afflicted by fatigue, illness, injustice, poverty, etc., with the certainty that God exists, that He is faithful and walks with us along the way. I invite you this week to share and meditate on "your little pieces of heaven."

José Juan Valdez, MA.

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

We come to know, love, and serve Jesus Christ.

Second Sunday of Lent

readings and podcasts, Year A

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)

First Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a

Psalm 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22.

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 1:8b-10

Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

Explore

Opening the Word on FORMED

Reflecting on the Sunday Readings

Sunday Connection

**A Message About Mass
to the Parents
of Young Children**

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.



WE LEARN & BECOME DISCIPLES TOGETHER

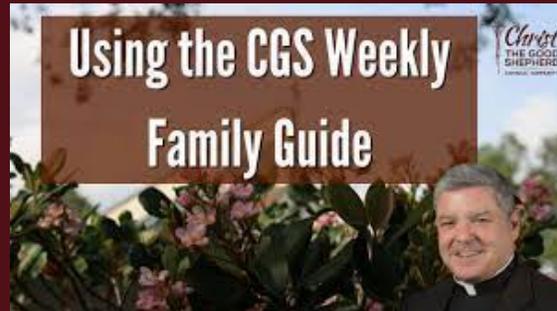
Getting Started

Why are we doing this?

How to manage a group discussion.

All underlined text is linked! Just click!

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE



Question of the Week

In what way have I experienced God?

Prayer

CONNECT with our GOD

- 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.

Step One

- If you could choose the happiest moment of your life... what would it be and why? How would you describe it?



Step Two

CONNECT with Scripture and Tradition

Choose from among the following Scriptures and teachings for reading, prayer, and discussion.

In the HOLY SCRIPTURE we read:

- God has shown his glory to us. [Deuteronomy 5:24](#)
- We can see God's Glory in his creation. [Psalm 19](#)
- Mary glorify God for his great deeds. [Luke 1:46-80](#)

In the Catechism of the Catholic Church

- Transfiguration: Forestate of the Kingdom. [#554-556](#)
- Prayer as communion with God. [#256](#)
- Jesus prays in solitude and includes all in his prayer. [#2602](#)
- Moses in the burning bush. "Face to Face" he draws strength for intercession. [#2574-2577](#)

Discuss

1. What particular traits best define my image of Jesus?
2. When I have had profound experience(s) of God's presence in my life, how have I reacted, what have I done or said?
3. Where do you find your "Mount Tabor"? Describe that special place where you seek God's manifestation in your life.

WHAT IS THE CHURCH'S TEACHING?

POINTS OF UNDERSTANDING

Where they come from and ways to use them.



[Want more? Go Deeper!](#)

Reflection Question

What am I going to do to let the light of Jesus in me shine before others or how can I best share it?



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 seek God's presence and glory in prayer?



For the Individual - **Sharing your "little pieces of heaven"**

Share with someone you haven't done yet, from your school or work, the ("little piece(s) of heaven") experiences you've had.



For Couples - **Share and pray**

Share the moments in which you have felt the presence of God the most in your married life and how these have sustained you in difficult moments. Then "go up" together to praise and give thanks to God for his faithfulness.



For the Domestic Church - **Sharing our change - Lenten Project**

This week, intensify the search and the collection of your change (coins) and as a family go make your donation to our Lenten Project in the collection basket that has been designated to help NAM, the Houston Food Bank, and the CGS Food Pantry.



Missionary Mindset - **Sharing with Others...**

If possible, go to a nursing home, another church or visit someone you know from another religion and ask them about their experiences of God; then listen and treasure what they have shared with you.

Lenten Reflection - The Spirit of Lent

Presented by: Fr. Dr. Innocent O. Okhifo

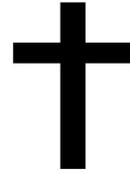
Tuesday, March 7, 2023

10:00 am. & 7:00 pm.



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

A young man with short dark hair, wearing a brown t-shirt, is sitting on a grassy hill. He is looking upwards and to the right, with his right arm raised and hand open, reaching towards the sky. He is holding an open book in his left hand. The background is a soft, hazy sky with light clouds, suggesting a sunrise or sunset.

Amazing and eternal God, as your Son drew apart
to be in prayer with you in the mountain,
we offer our lives for the transformation of the world and the church.
As you revealed your glory and presence in your
beloved Son, Jesus the Christ,
reveal the glory and presence of your Spirit
alive in the world today,
free us from all doubts, and empower
us to act as a transfigured people to those around us.
We ask you this in the name of your
Son Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.
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?

In what way have I experienced God?

WE ARE THE CHURCH

What Makes us Catholic?

Contemplative Prayer

What is contemplative prayer? St. Teresa answers: "Contemplative prayer [mental] in my opinion is nothing else than a close sharing between friends; it means taking time frequently to be alone with him who we know loves us." Contemplative prayer seeks him "whom my soul loves." It is Jesus, and in him, the Father. We seek him, because to desire him is always the beginning of love, and we seek him in that pure faith which causes us to be born of him and to live in him. In this inner prayer we can still meditate, but our attention is fixed on the Lord himself.

CCC # 2709



Word of the Week - Transfiguration

The divinity of our Lord was made manifest to Peter, James, and John by this event in the life of Christ (Mt. 17:1-8; Mk. 9:1-8). As the scripture Scholar Lagrange states, "the transfiguration serves as a sure pledge of Christ's future glory". The transfiguration prefigures the everlasting enthronement of Christ and the beginning of his Reign.

Faith Groups at CGS

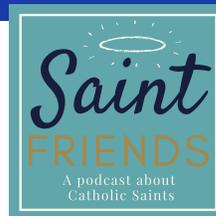
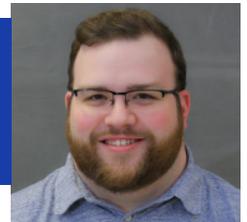


Join a small Faith Group or start one of your own!

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

- Catholic Productions // **The Transfiguration By Dr. Brant Pitre** -- Video 8:59
- St. Paul Center // **Why Does the Transfiguration Matter? By Dr. Scott Hahn** -- Video 26:24
- St. Paul Center // **Why Were Moses and Elijah at the Transfiguration? By Dr. John Bergsma**-- Video 26:24
- Bishop Robert Barron // **Awaiting Resurrection - Bishop Barron's Sunday Sermon** -- Video 15:16

Catholic Apps



Laudate



IBreviary

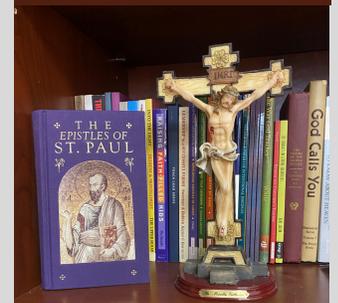


Formed

FOR YOUR MARRIAGE

Outstanding website
for those who are
married or hope
to be married!

Book Suggestions



Current Bible Studies



Young Adult Ministry

A Quick Journey Through the Bible

Monday Mornings & Wednesday Evenings

Ages 18-30

Monday Mornings & Wednesday Evenings
Other days, times and activities as announced.



Family Ministry

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).

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

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

Question: How do I experience God in my everyday life?

Grades 5 & 6: "**Venture**" by Pflaum Publishing and Grades 7 & 8: "**Visions**" by Pflaum Publishing.

Ascension Presents // [Reading the "Signs" from God](#) -- video (7:01)

LifeTeen // [How to Start Talking to God](#) -- blog

Ascension Presents // [How to See God in Everything, Every Day](#) -- video (8:40)

Ascension Presents // [Doubting God, Scrupulosity, and Spiritual Tiredness](#) -- video (7:23)

Characteristics of Adolescents & Parents Roles

[Early Adolescence](#)

[Adolescence](#)

Adolescence (High School, Grades 9-12)

Question: How do I experience God in my everyday life?

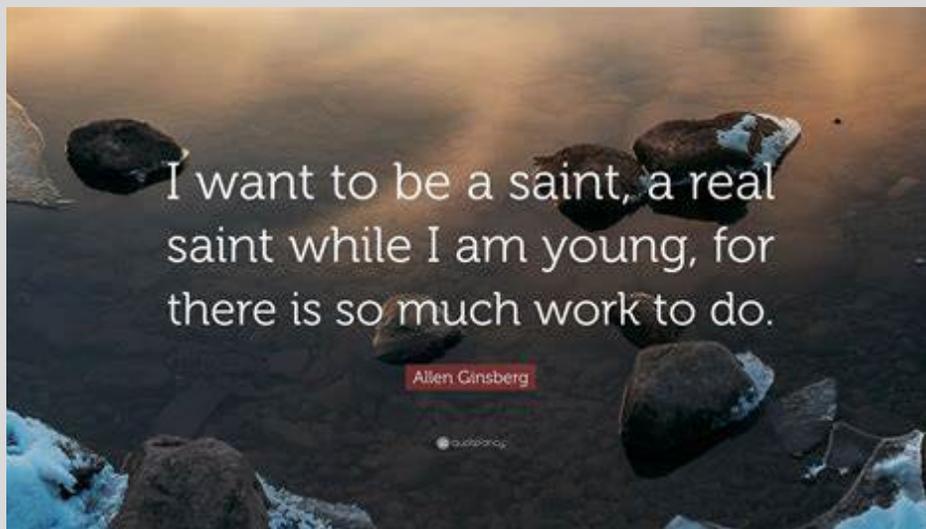
Ascension Presents // [How to See God in Everything, Every Day](#) -- video (8:40)

Ascension Presents // [Doubting God, Scrupulosity, and Spiritual Tiredness](#) -- video (7:23)

Ascension Presents // [What You Don't Know About Christian Mysticism](#) -- video (7:05)

Ascension Presents // [Reading the "Signs" from God](#) -- video (7:01)

LifeTeen // [How to Start Talking to God](#) -- blog



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

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

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.

Join a Group of Parents with Young Children--or start one! inquire at discipleship@cgscscc.church.

Early Childhood (Ages 3-5)

Question: How can you find God? How can you be a blessing to others?
"Seeds" by Pflaum Publishing.

Philo and Sophie // Making Good Choices--video (15:02)

Activity: Do something this week that is a blessing to others.



Childhood (Elementary, Grades 1-5)

Question: How can you find God? How can you be a blessing to others?

Sophia Institute // **Ready to Use Lesson for Each Sunday**

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

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

Philo and Sophie // Making Good Choices--video (15:02)

Activity: Do something this week that is a blessing to others.

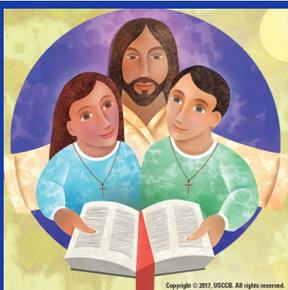
Characteristics
of Adolescents
& Parents Roles

Early Childhood

Childhood

**Age-Specific
Materials**

Age-specific materials for early childhood through 8th grade are now available for you to use at home and/or with your small Faith Group. Contact Jackie Coba in the parish office. 346.236.6459 ex. 342 jcoba@cgscscc.church



Monthly Gatherings for Children and Their Families

At least monthly, children have an opportunity to gather at CGS with the parents to enjoy fun and interesting activities together, supporting the Church in the home and helping families be more connected. Activities are announced regularly.



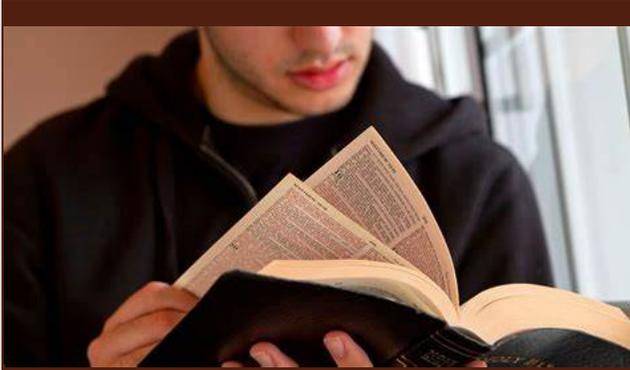
GENERAL RESOURCES

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 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

jesuitresource.org//Prayers for Transitions and New Beginnings

[Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference// Transfiguration Prayer](#)

[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.](#)

GENERAL RESOURCES

Sacred Art to Inspire You

COVER IMAGE

Franz Josef Dobiaschofsky // Transfiguration of Jesus on the Mount; fresco; Vienna, Austria; 1860.

Liviu Dumitrescu, Byzantine Icons // The Pieta (Mary mourns over the dead body of her son), Acrylic on canvas; Romania; 21st Century.

Lion of Judah Images--Assortment on Fine Art America.



Lion of Judah

Dale Bradley

Revelation 5:5

Using Sacred Art
to Bring the Faith Alive
Sophia Institute



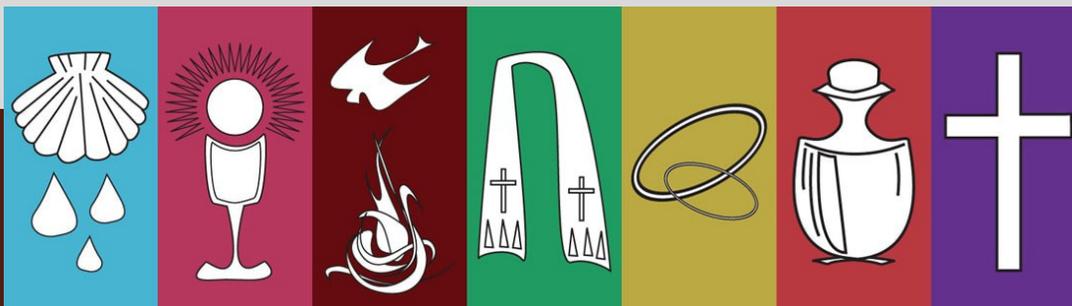
Sacred Art on Formed

Parish subscription free for
parishioners--register once,
access all content.

Formed.org

Music to Move You

- St. Philip the Apostle Parish // Transfiguration - Lyric Video 3:12
- Transfiguration // Christian Hymn with Choir & Lyrics Wren/Manalo - Video 3:26
- Peg Angell // The Transfiguration of Jesus original song - Video 3:14



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!



Our Vision Statement

Building a community of love and hope by putting our faith into action.

This Guide is produced weekly by our Office of Evangelization and Discipleship for the family of Christ the Good Shepherd Catholic Community.

"HELPING PEOPLE TO KNOW AND LOVE JESUS CHRIST"

How is this Guide working for you and your household?

We want to include your ideas. 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



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.