

CGS FAMILY

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Volume III, Guide 17, March 19, 2023



**What does it mean to live
as a child of the light?**

www.cgscclchurch.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

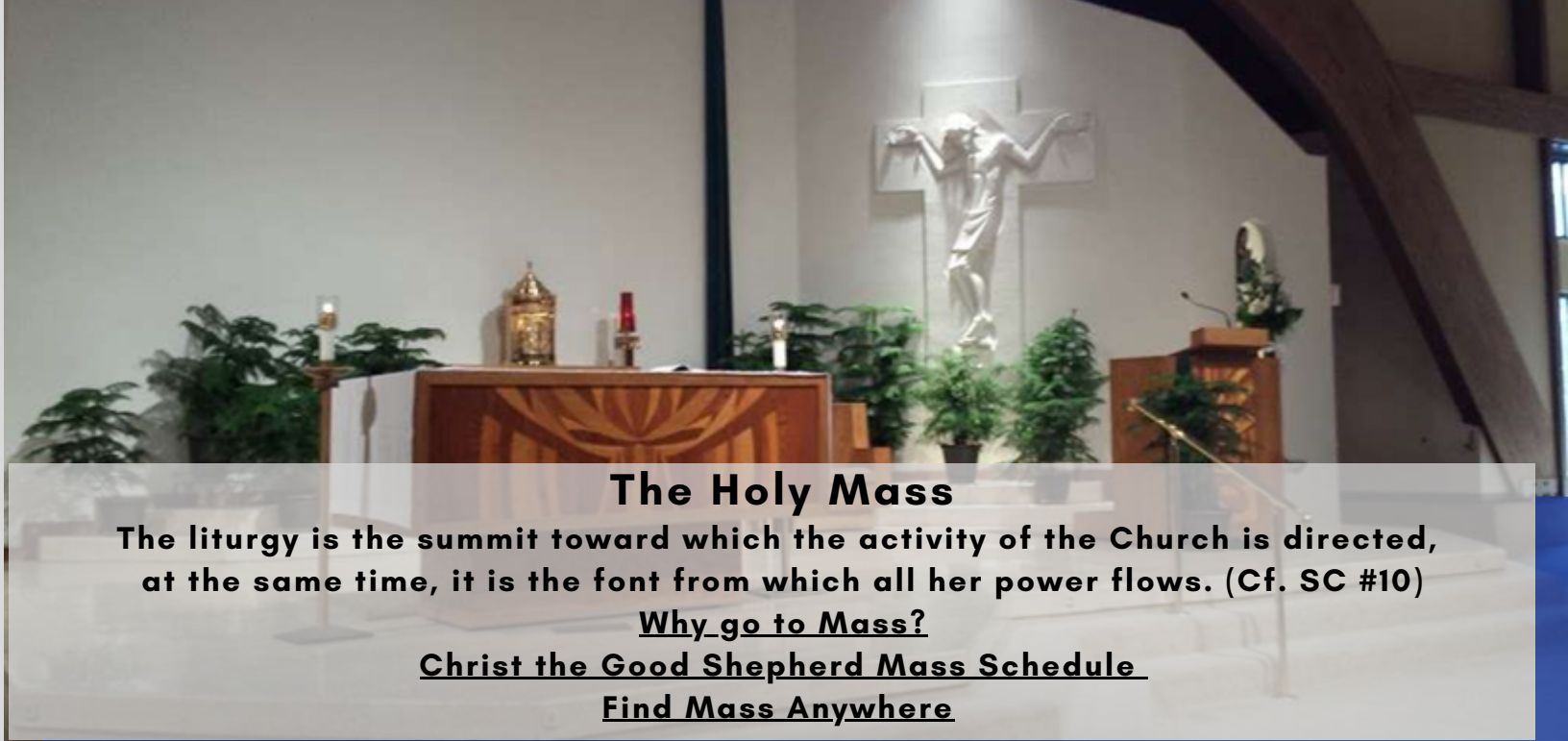
Called: Children of the Light

As a priest, I usually spend my day-off at my parents' house, where I grew up. I usually say Mass for my parents in the morning, in a room with a big window overlooking the lagoon adjacent to the house. I remember one morning the sun was shining really bright and was reflecting off of the water at just the right angle, so it beamed into the room. I knew the water wasn't the source of light and had no power to produce light in itself, it simply reflected the source. And yet, the reflection of the sun off of the water was, somehow, just as strong as the rays of the sun itself. What does it mean to be a Child of the Light? It means to reflect the Son, the light of the world. We don't have power to produce the light of Jesus ourselves and we certainly aren't the source. We can only reflect. And yet, our reflection can be incredibly strong for others. That's our call as Children of the Light: to reflect the Son and to point others to Him.

Fr. 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

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

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Readings and Podcasts, Year A

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16: 1,6-7, 10-13

Psalm 23: 1-3, 3-4, 5, 6

Second Reading: Ephesians 5: 8-14

Gospel: John 9: 1-41

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

What does it mean to live as a child of the light?

Prayer

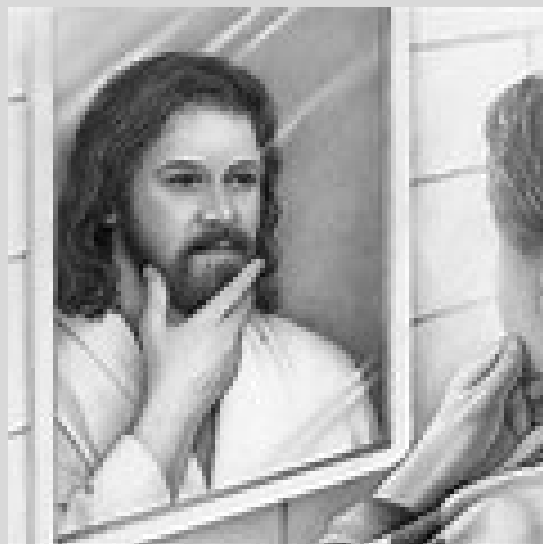
CONNECT with our GOD

- 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

CONNECT with our daily LIVES

Think of someone you know who "reflects" Christ in the world. What are some of their traits/characteristics that help you see Christ in them?



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:

- Lord, show me your way. Psalms 27:11
- And let the peace of Christ control your hearts. Colossian 3:15-17

In the Catechism of the Catholic Church

- We are called to be witnesses to Christ in all circumstances. #942
- Christ is the light of humanity. #748

St. Pope John Paul II said:

Our personal encounter with Christ bathes life in new light, sets us on the right path, and sends us out to be his witnesses. This new way of looking at the world and at people, which comes to us from him, leads us more deeply into the mystery of faith, which is not just a collection of theoretical assertions to be accepted and approved by the mind, but an experience to be had, a truth to be lived, the salt and light of all reality (cf. *Veritatis Splendor*, 88).

XVII World Youth Day

Discuss

1. How has a personal encounter with Christ bathed you in "new light and set you on the right path"?
2. St. Pope John Paul II told the world's youth that being a child of the light gives you a new way of looking at the world and at people. How has this lead you more deeply into the mystery of faith?

WHAT IS THE CHURCH'S TEACHING?

POINTS OF UNDERSTANDING

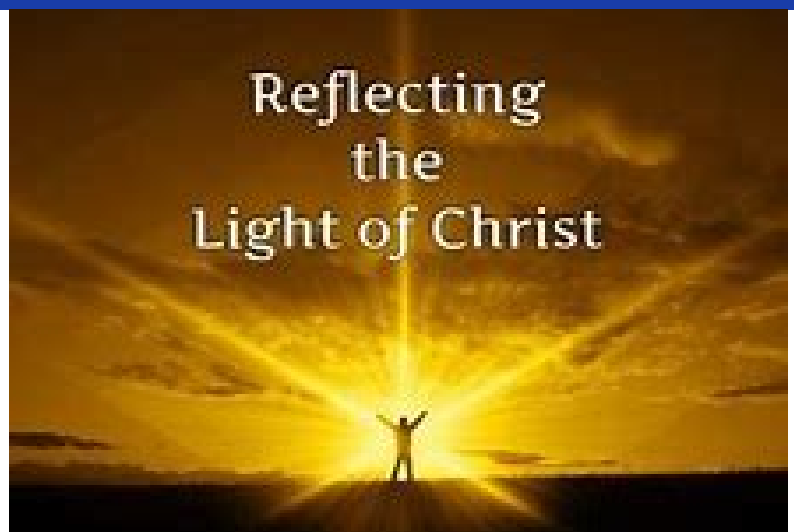


Where they come from and ways to use them.

Want more? Go Deeper!

Reflection Question

- How do I open my eyes to see Jesus light reflected in the people around me?
- How can I reflect Jesus' light in my life more intensely?



Step Three

CONNECT with OTHERS... Living the Gospel with commitment & action.

What action can I take this week that reflects the light of Jesus Christ?

Practical Activities



For the Individual - **Sharing the Light**

This week, share with someone close to you (a family member or a friend) something new that you have recently learned about your faith. It may be something that you did not know or something that you understand in a new way and that it has illuminated your understanding and has given you clarity.



For Couples **Bringing to light the qualities of one another**

Often our spouse sees things in ourselves (good and not so good) that we can't see. This week we invite you to dedicate a moment to which each one puts in writing a list of all the qualities (the good things) that he/she finds in his/her partner. Then share this list with each other along with concrete examples of these qualities in your daily life.



For the Domestic Church **Praying for clarity as a family**

This week, we invite you to pray together to ask God with humility and trust to reveal the different areas or situations in which there is blindness or obscurities that do not allow you to advance in your life of faith and/or your family life. Then, share what you have received in prayer and ask God to help you see.



Missionary Mindset **Going Out to Meet the Stranger**

Let's meditate on whom in our community may feel like a stranger or may feel excluded. Then, decide to take a concrete action to go out to meet this person (or people). This will lead us to be a more hospitable and welcoming parish.

Do You...?

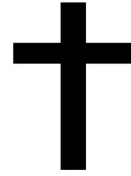
- Want to make a difference
- Help someone get to know Jesus' Christ
- Need help finding a volunteer opportunity

Email Anna Spalding at discipleship@cgscscc.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.



"Let us pray that families grow closer together, and together, closer to God." Fr. James

Prayer of Light

Transforming God,

whose light always penetrates the darkness
and whose love always overcomes hate,
we ask that you sustain us as we struggle to
make your light visible in an angry and
frightened world.

Nurture us daily as we work for your justice
in unjust places and your peace in places
where no peace is to be found.

Give us courage and strength when we are
fearful and weak.

Give us hope and forgiveness when we feel
hopeless and angry.

And guide us every step of the way as we walk
toward the light.

In Jesus' name we pray,

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?

What does it mean to live as a child of the light?

WE ARE THE CHURCH

What Makes us Catholic?

Lamps - Candles

First introduced into the Church out of necessity, lamps became later symbols of honor. In the early Middle Ages they were hung before reliquaries and the Tabernacle. From the XIII Century onward, the lamp has been used to honor continually the Divine Presence. It is now called the Sanctuary Lamp, and there is requirement that at least one lamp should burn continually before the Blessed Sacrament. If more than one lamp is used, the number should be uneven, it is required to be suspended or rise at least 7 feet off the floor, or above eye level.

From Catholic Encyclopedia



Word of the Week - Sacred Relics

Any part of the bodily remains of a Saint is designated a sacred relic, they need to be authenticated, that is declared by sworn statement to be genuine (c. 1190). We just dedicated a new place in our church where we can venerate the relics of Saint Maria Goretti, Saint Paul of the Cross, Saint Gemma Galgani, and Saint Lawrence of Brindisi. We encourage you to come and expend some time of prayer and reflection on the life of these saints.



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 News Agency // Pope Francis: There is no option to be passive Catholics when it comes to evangelization -- Article

Bishop Robert Barron // Let Christ Light a Fire in You -- Video (14:41)

Catholic Culture // The Christian Meaning of Light -- Article

The Catholic World Report // Father Charles Fox: Living as children of the Light during dark times -- Essay

Father Michael Smith // How to Keep Your Faith Alive and Growing -- Video (7:04)

Catholic Apps



Laudate



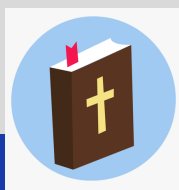
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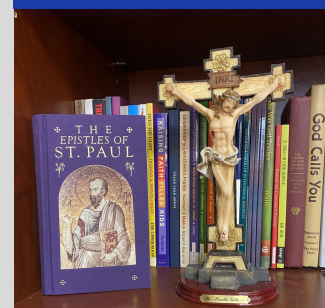
Formed

FOR YOUR MARRIAGE

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



Book Suggestions



Current Bible Studies

A Quick Journey Through the Bible

Monday Mornings & Wednesday Evenings

Young Adult Ministry

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 you let Christ shine His light in your life?

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

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

Life Teen // [Stop Running From Darkness](#) --Blog

Ascension Presents // [Finding God in Darkness](#) -- video (10:32)

Ascension Presents // [Are You a Child of God?](#) -- video (6:51)

Characteristics of Adolescents & Parents Roles

[Early Adolescence](#)

[Adolescence](#)

Adolescence (High School, Grades 9-12)

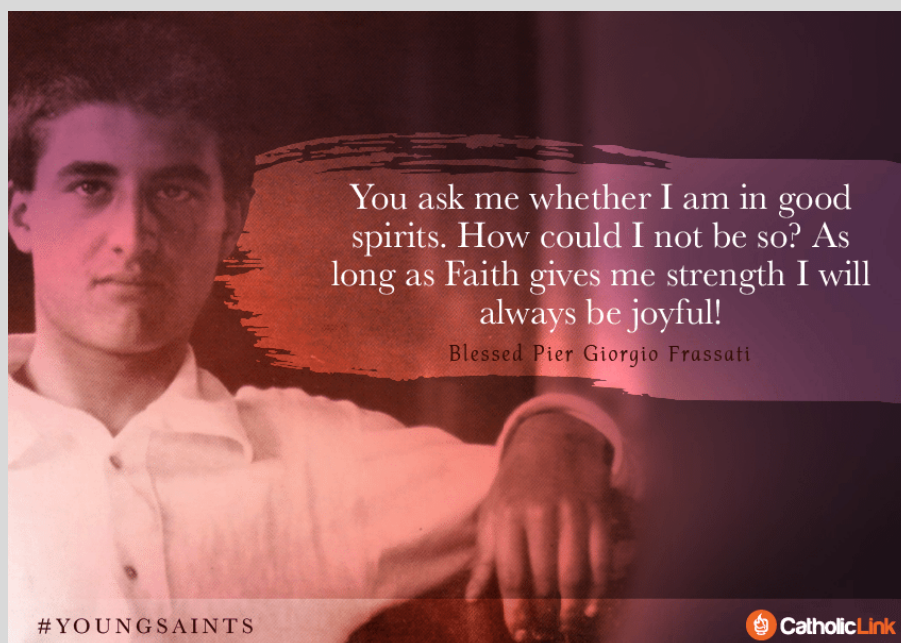
Question: How do you let Christ shine His light in your life?

Ascension Presents // [How to Be a Light in Darkness](#) -- video (10:16)

Life Teen // [Stop Running From Darkness](#) --Blog

Ascension Presents // [Finding God in Darkness](#) -- video (10:32)

Ascension Presents // [Are You a Child of God?](#) -- video (6:51)



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.

Early Childhood (Ages 3-5)

Question: How do you let the light of Christ shine in your life?

"Seeds" by Pflaum Publishing.

Formed // The Suitcase: A Story About Giving by Jane Meyer--Video (6:55)

Formed // Storytime with Marcam | Episode 7 - Video (11:00)

Characteristics
of Adolescents
& Parents Roles

Early Childhood

Childhood

Age-Specific
Materials



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

Childhood (Elementary, Grades 1-5)

Question: How do you let the light of Christ shine in your life?

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

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

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

Children's Liturgy of the Word by Catholic TV

Formed // The Suitcase: A Story About Giving by Jane Meyer--Video (6:55)

Hillsong Young and Free// Brighter -- Video (3:22)



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.



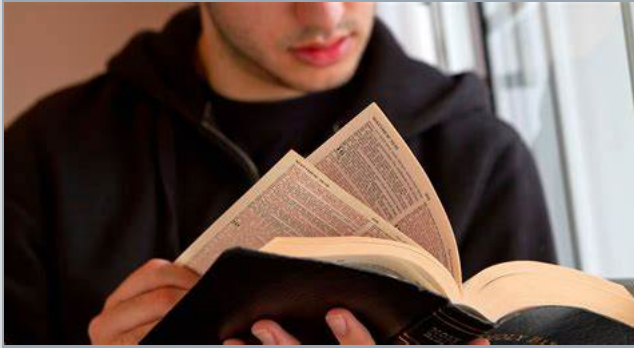
GENERAL RESOURCES

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.

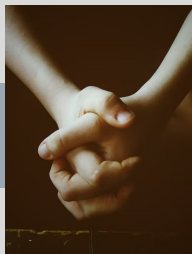
Counseling & Spiritual Direction

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

USCCB // Disciples Called to Witness: Prayer



Prayer Requests



Common Prayers and
Formulas to Learn by Heart

and a chart showing at what
age level they should be learned.

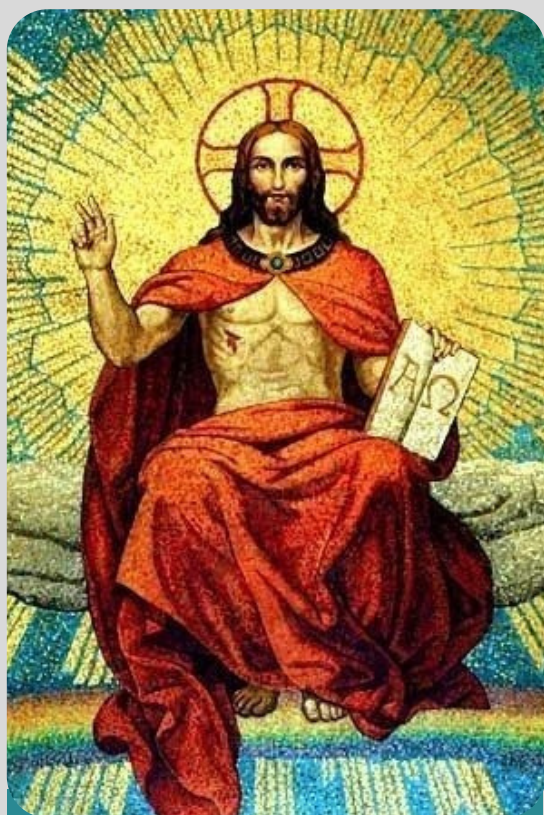
How to create a prayer table
or prayer area in your home.

GENERAL RESOURCES

Sacred Art to Inspire You

Cover Image

Michael Dudash//Peace in Prayer – Paper Print



Munir Alawi // The Preacher--
Acrylic Print

[View Munir Alawi Art Collection](#)

Using Sacred Art to Bring the Faith Alive

Sophia Institute



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

[Formed.org](#)

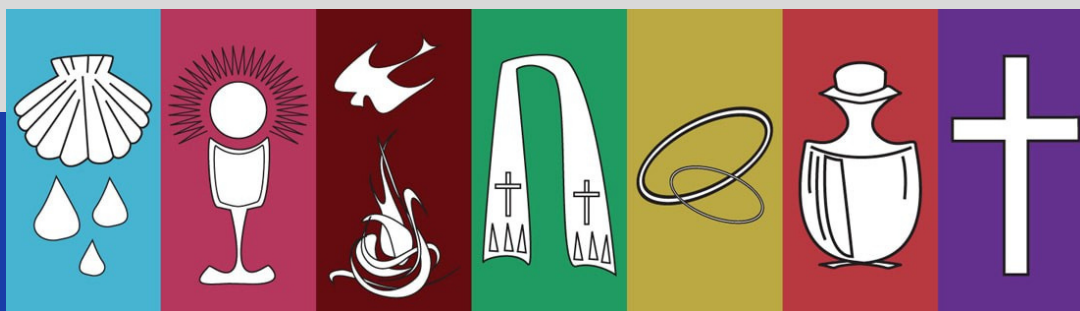
Music to Move You

JJ Weeks Band//Let Them See You -- Video
(4:20)

Bernadette Farrell // Christ be Our Light --
Video (4:25)

Brandon Heath// Give Me Your Eyes -- Video
(4:02)

Jeremy Camp // Christ In Me -- Video (3:37)



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



Text CGS to 84576 to join us on Flocknote.

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.