

# CGS FAMILY



2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER / DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

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Volume III, Guide 21, April 16, 2023

**How can we imitate the early  
Christian communities?**

**[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



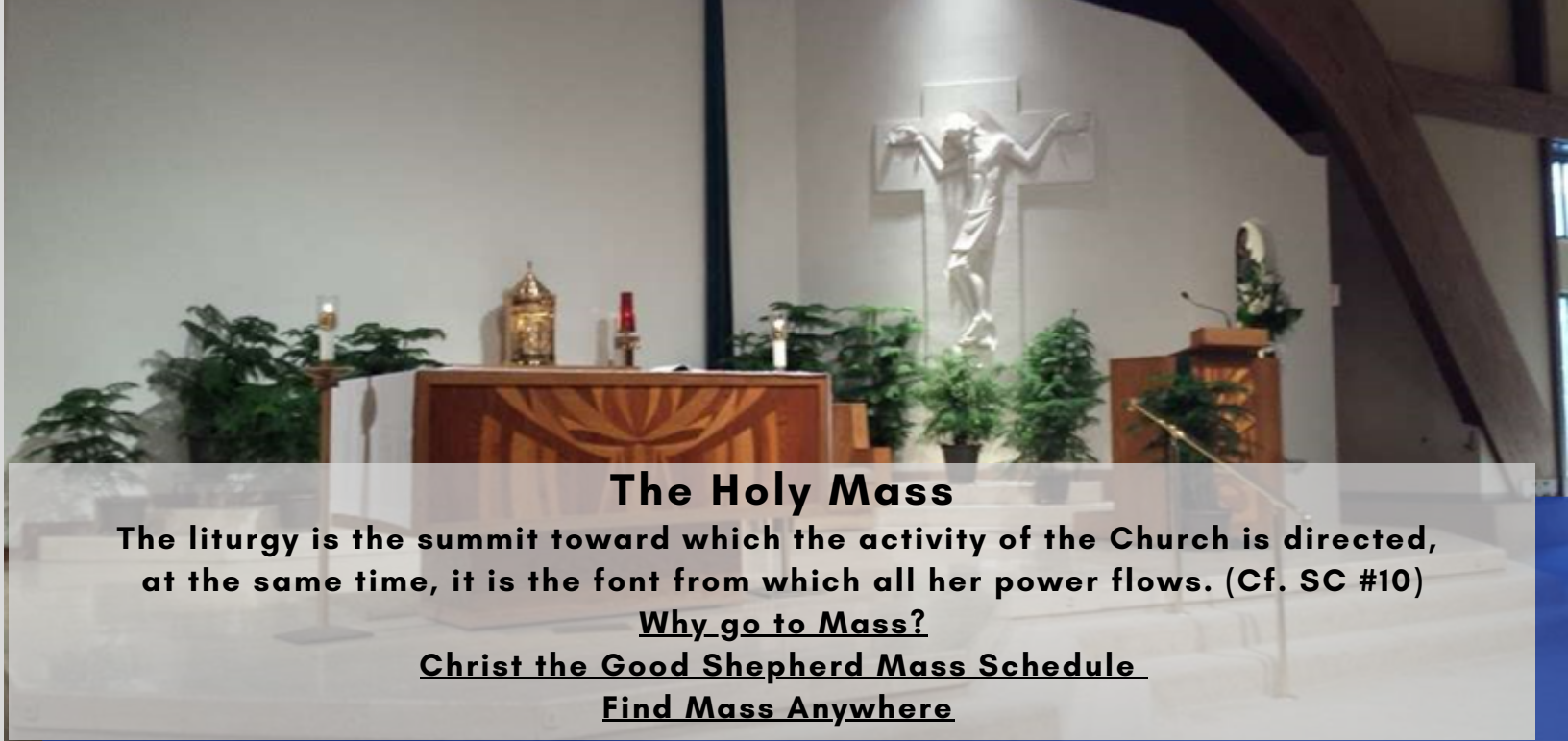
#### Renew and Re-invigorate

We continue to strive to bring you a substantive opportunity for you and your family to learn and grow in our Christian faith every week through these weekly Family Guides. Our first reading today from The Acts of the Apostles 2:42-47 has been an inspiration for us throughout this process. What we are inviting all the families of our parish into is not new, in fact it is ancient. "They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles..." (Acts of the Apostles 2:42-47). For the past 9 ½ years, even before I arrived at Christ the Good Shepherd, the Holy Spirit had me praying for families in my morning holy hour, "Lord that families be brought closer together and, together, closer to God." What we are working toward here at Christ the Good Shepherd is the ministry of returning God to the very center of our lives as individuals, but most importantly, to the center of our families. We believe that happens by making God and the things of God a part of our daily conversations, certainly through prayer, but also in conversations and how our faith is related and guides decisions in our lives. They were so dedicated to this in the early church that "they would sell their property and possessions and dived them among all according to each one's need" (ibid). Our question this week is, 'How can we imitate the early Christian communities?' in fact, our prayer is that for all of us to renew and re-invigorate ourselves and our families in the faith of Jesus Christ. In the Gospel reading this week, John 20:19-31, Jesus says, "Peace be with you." May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**Fr. James Burkart**



**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 Easter/Sunday of Divine Mercy**

readings and podcasts, Year A

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)

First Reading: Acts 2: 42-47

Psalms 118: 2-4, 13-15, 22-24

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1: 3-9

Gospel: John 20: 19-31

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

Explore

**Opening the Word on FORMED**  
**Reflecting on the Sunday Readings**  
**Sunday Connection**

## 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

How can we imitate the early Christian communities?

## 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

"They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers" (Acts 2:42). How do you live this out daily?





# 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:

- The Lord is the ultimate instructor on how we should live. Psalm 32:8
- We should imitate what we have already learned and received. Philippians 4:9
- Let us use our houses and the houses of our family and friends to teach Christ! Acts 5:42

### In the Catechism of the Catholic Church

- The home is the first place of education. #2223
- The Resurrection does not just affect the apostles, but us too. #642-644
- We can continue to live out the Resurrection by sharing our knowledge and materials. #2832-2833

### Discuss

1. How would you feel if you were in the presence of the other disciples and witnessing the "wonders and signs" through them?
2. When is the last time you hosted a gathering at your house to study Scripture or pray with others?
3. How important is it to you that your family has a relationship with Jesus? Why?

## 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 can the early Christian communities help shape your life and your family?



# 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 better understand the early church communities and your own community?

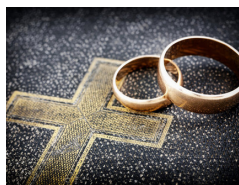
HELLO  
My Name Is

### Practical Activities

*For the Individual*

#### Hello My Name Is

Go to someone who you see often at church but don't know. Introduce yourself to them and get to know a little bit about them.



*For Couples*

#### Teams of our Lady

Consider joining Teams of our Lady to support you and your spouse's marriage. You would meet once a month with six other couples to help foster a relationship of prayer, community, fellowship, and conversation. Please call the parish office for more information on getting started.



*For the Domestic Church*

#### Table of Plenty

Invite some friends and family around the area to participate in some sort of prayer and food at your house. It can be a potluck style and something as simple as praying the Rosary together!



*Missionary Mindset*

#### Bible Study

Have you ever thought about starting or joining a Bible Study group? This is a great way to not only strengthen your relationships with others but with Christ as well. Think about studying the Book of Acts.

### Family of the Week

The Perez Family is part of the CGS Family. Click below to watch and hear their story in living for Christ.

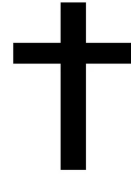
Shalom World // [Crazy, Chaotic, and Challenging with The Perez Family](#) -- video (20:48)





# 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 for Community**

Embracing Father,  
You grace each of us with equal measure in your love.  
Let us learn to love our neighbors more deeply,  
so that we can create  
peaceful and just communities.  
Inspire us to use our creative energies  
to build the structures we need  
to overcome the obstacles  
of intolerance and indifference.  
May Jesus provide us the example needed  
and send the Spirit to warm our hearts for the journey.  
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?

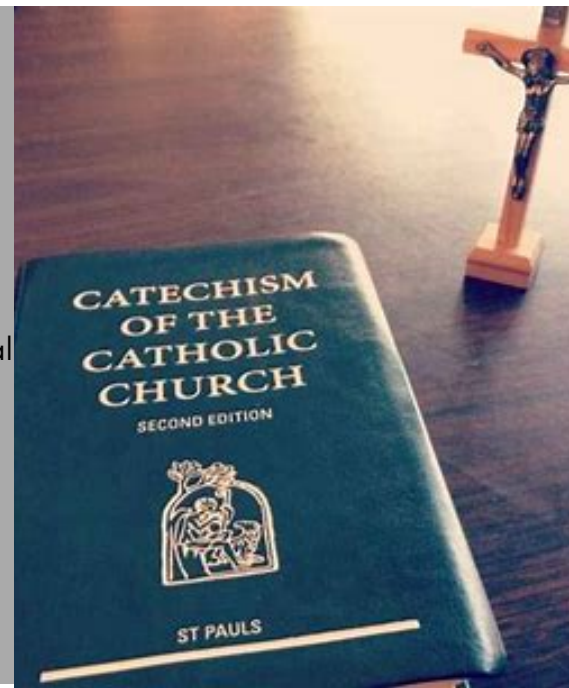
**How can we imitate the early Christian communities?**

# WE ARE THE CHURCH

## What Makes us Catholic?

### The Catechism of the Catholic Church

The Church in Her beauty and richness is deep in wisdom and knowledge. How can we share the teachings of Christ and His church if we do not yet understand them? The Catechism is a text which explains the "fundamental truths" about Christianity. As there have been mini catechisms throughout church history and within some nations, the official Catechism of the Catholic Church was commissioned by Saint John Paul II and approved in 1992.



## Word of the Week - **Koinonia**

Koinonia is Greek for fellowship. Another word for fellowship would be communion but in a more serious sense. For us Catholics, our "Koinonia" or fellowship is the "Breaking of the Bread" which is the Holy Mass where our close bond is common and united.

## 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

Fr. Michael Giesler // How the First Christian Changed the World--article  
Catholic Answers // Was the Early Church Catholic or Just Christian?-- magazine  
Diocese of Juliet // The Importance of Small Groups -- video (1:40)  
Ascension Presents // Passing the Faith to Your Kids -- video (7:26)  
Pints With Aquinas // The Early Church was 100% Catholic -- video (7:57)  
Pints With Aquinas // What Early Christians Believed About the Eucharist -- video (13:46)  
St. Thomas Aquinas // 4 Reasons Why Small Faith Groups Are Vital -- video (2:49)  
Breaking in the Habit // Sell Everything and Give to the Poor? -- video (8:14)

## Catholic Apps



Laudate



IBreviary

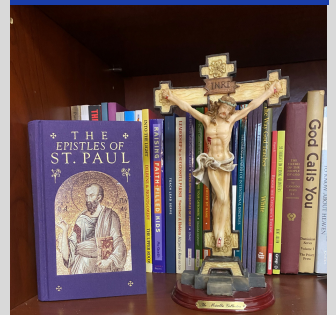


Formed

## FOR YOUR MARRIAGE

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

## Book Suggestions



VIA  
LUCIS  
STATIONS OF THE RESURRECTION

## Via Lucis: The Stations of the Resurrection

Via Lucis, or the Stations of Light, is a devotional practice for reflecting on the joy and hope of the Resurrection during the Easter season. While the Stations of the Cross commemorate Jesus' journey to his crucifixion and death, the Stations of Light focus on the events that followed the Resurrection.

Is Easter... Let us now Pray the VIA LUCIS

# YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

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

**Question: Why is it important to have a community? How can you share Christ with those in your life?**

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

Ascension Presents // Why be Catholic and not just Christian? --video (8:58)

Ascension Presents // What's so different about these Christians? -- video (6:44)

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

Life Teen // Living Your Faith Everyday -- blog

### Characteristics of Adolescents & Parents Roles

Early Adolescence

Adolescence



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

**Question: Why is it important to have a community? How can you share Christ with those in your life?**

Columbia Catholic Ministry // Doubting Thomas, Babe Ruth, and The Resurrection -- video (5:16)

Ascension Presents // Why be Catholic and not just Christian? --video (8:58)

Ascension Presents // What's so different about these Christians? -- video (6:44)

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

Life Teen // Living Your Faith Everyday -- 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.

## Early Childhood (Ages 3-5)

**Question: How do share God's love with your family?**

Seeds" by Pflaum Publishing

Lukas Club // Works of Mercy--Video (11:19)

Characteristics  
of Adolescents  
& Parents Roles

Early Childhood

Childhood

Join a Group of Parents with Young Children--  
-or start one! Inquire at  
[discipleship@cgscs.church](mailto:discipleship@cgscs.church).

Age-Specific  
Materials

## Childhood (Elementary, Grades 1-5)

**Question: How do share God's love with your family and friends?**

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 // The Divine Mercy Chaplet for Kids--Video (18:00)

**FAMILIES WITH  
ELEMENTARY AGE  
CHILDREN**

**CIRCLE OF GRACE**

**ARCHDIOCESAN REQUIRED**

SUNDAY, MAY 7, 5-6:30 PM

OR

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 6:30-8PM

REGISTER:

[HTTPS://FORMS.OFFICE.COM/R/GRNKPIWVG4](https://forms.office.com/R/GRNKPIWVG4)



**CGS EVANGELIZATION AND DISCIPLESHIP**  
HELPING PEOPLE TO KNOW AND LOVE JESUS CHRIST  
[DISCIPLE@CGSCC.CHURCH](mailto:DISCIPLE@CGSCC.CHURCH)



*Upcoming Event*

**Families with Elementary  
Age Children**

**Wednesday  
03 May 2023  
5:30 PM - 6:45 PM**



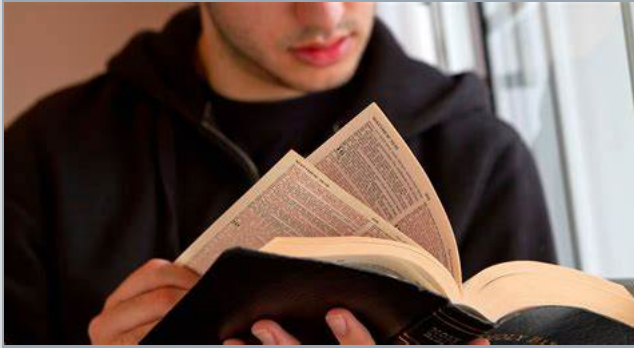
# GENERAL RESOURCES

## 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](http://formed.org) - Just click "Sign Up as a Parishioner." Need help? Watch this video.

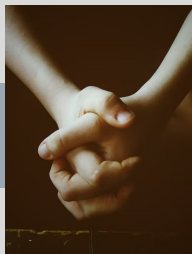
## Counseling & Spiritual Direction

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

DivineMercy.org // Divine Mercy Chaplet -- website



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

FullofEyes // John 6:51

### On this page

Isaac Israels // Procession in The Old Catholic Church in The Hague -- painting 1881

ThroughEternity // The Art of the First Christians in the Catacombs -- blog

Marteen de Vos // The Early Christian Community Placing All Property at the Apostles' Feet -- Engravement, 1532-1603

Jan Luyken // Early Christian Community Listening to a Reading from the Bible -- 1700

## 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

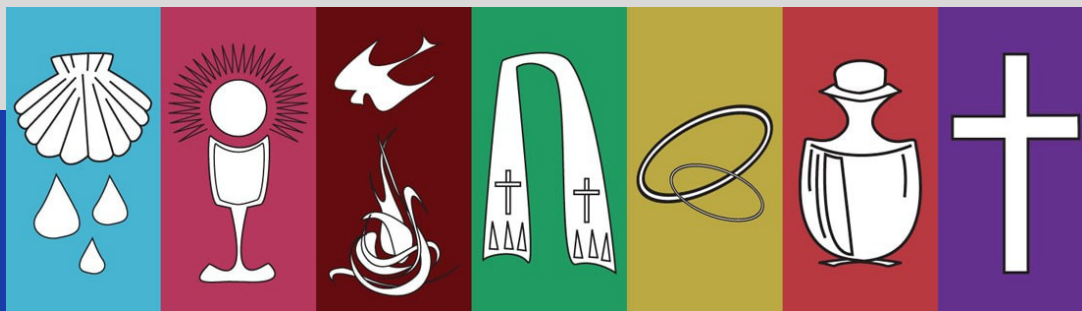
## Music to Move You

Influence Music and Michael Ketterer // Spirit Lead Me -- Official Video (7:10)

Matt Maher // Hold Us Together -- Audio (3:27)

Luke Spehar // Pilgrim -- Audio (4:51)

The Hillbilly Thomist // What Wondrous Love is This -- Audio (4:57)



## 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.



Official Page:

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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.