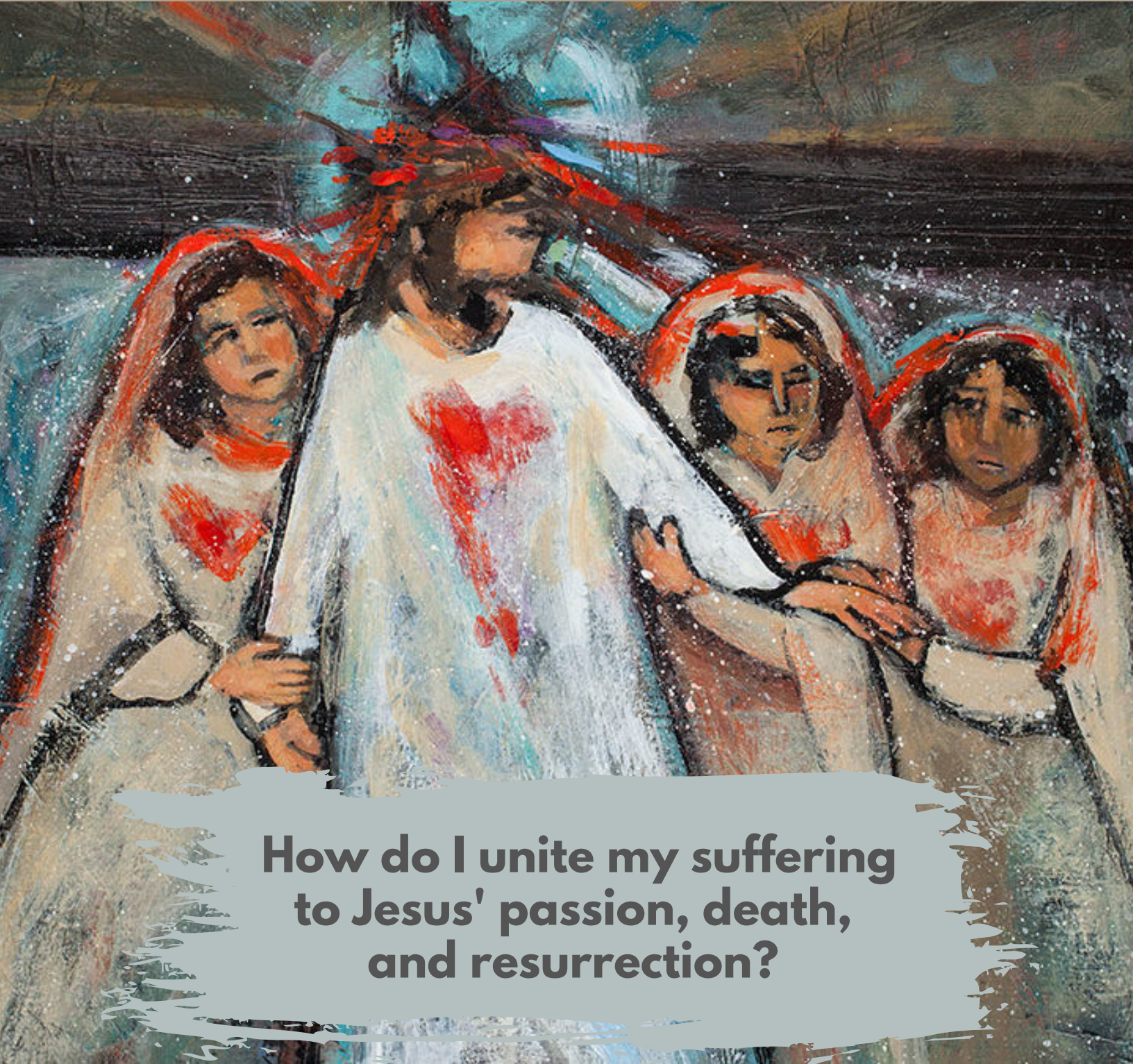


CGS FAMILY

PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

Volume III, Guide 19, April 2, 2023



**How do I unite my suffering
to Jesus' passion, death,
and resurrection?**

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

Why Must I Suffer?

People often ask the question, "Why must I suffer?" Jesus shows great compassion for suffering people throughout his ministry. Still, he doesn't answer the question "Why?" He says, "Take up your cross and follow me" (Matthew 16:24). Perhaps we have been asking the wrong question, then: It's not "why," but "how?" How do I imitate Jesus as he willingly accepts his cross for the sake of the salvation of the world? Jesus didn't run from the cross; rather, he embraced it because, he said, "I will rise again on the third day." He didn't curse the cross, he accepted it. His closest disciples did not understand this, even Peter. They kept trying to talk him out of it. It wasn't until after the resurrection of Jesus and the coming of the Holy Spirit that they came to understand: Suffering is a pathway to something else. Learning how to walk this path is our life's project.

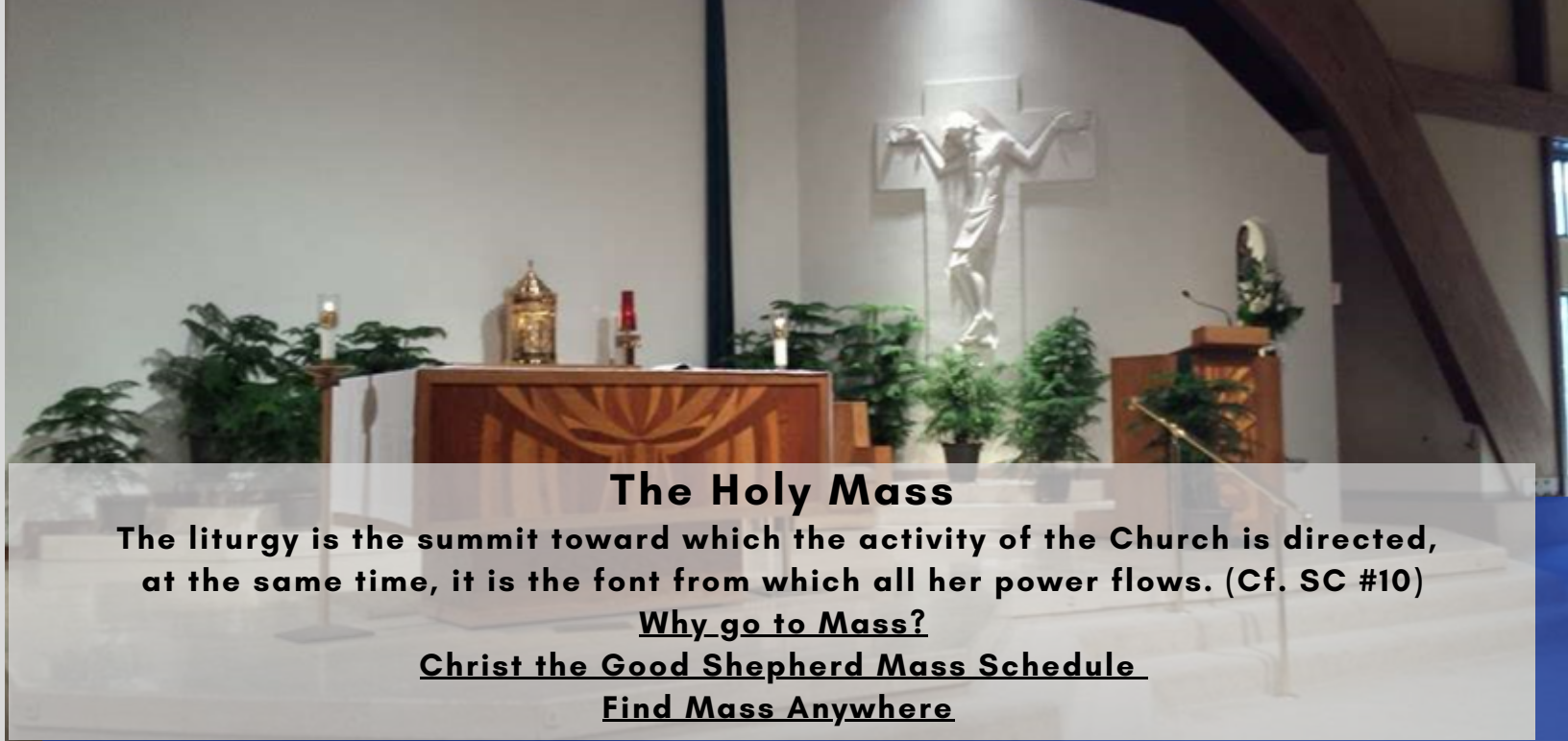
At the heart of every baptized Christian is the Cross of Christ. Jesus promises us two things: 1) That for his faithful people, suffering will not last forever and 2) suffering takes on new meaning when we take up our cross and follow him. In my life, am I open to Christ's call to follow? Am I willing to die with him so I might rise with him? Do I curse my cross or do I accept it? Am I willing to lay down my life in whatever way Christ asks it of me? The Paschal Mystery asks all of these questions and provides the answer, giving redemptive meaning to the reality of human suffering and evil.* In this Guide, let us ponder and discuss what it means to unite our sufferings with Jesus' passion, death, and resurrection so that we, like Jesus, can also live a new life.

Ivana T. Meshell

*Points of Understanding, Grade 9, #2.1.1



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.

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

readings and podcasts, Year A

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)

Gospel Procession: Matthew 21: 1-11

First Reading: Isaiah 50: 4-7

Psalms 22: 8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24

Second Reading: Philippians 2: 6-11

Gospel: Matthew 26:14 - 27:66

Explore

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

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 do I unite my suffering to Jesus' passion, death, and resurrection?

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

"Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself,* take up his cross, and follow me" (Matthew 16:24) What do you think he means in saying this?



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:

- ...if only we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. [Romans 8:17](#)
- If we persevere, we shall also reign with him. [II Timothy 2:12](#)
- Indeed we call blessed those who have persevered. [James 5:11](#)
- But whoever is made to suffer as a Christian should not be ashamed but glorify God because of the name. [I Peter 4:16](#)

In the Catechism of the Catholic Church

- Earthly suffering is temporary, the soul lives forever- [#366](#)
- Approach the question of suffering by keeping our eyes on Jesus who alone conquers evil. [#385](#)
- Heaven is the true homeland toward which we are heading and to which we already belong. [#2802](#)
- "The Paschal mystery of Christ's cross and Resurrection stands at the center of the Good News that the apostles, and the Church following them, are to proclaim to the world." [#571](#)

Discuss

1. Describe a time when you got through a difficult or painful situation. Why do you think you were able to endure it?
2. How do you manage the suffering in your own life? To what or to whom do you turn when life is difficult? Is this helpful and good or does it make things worse?
3. In general, one of the worse ways to manage suffering is to dwell too much on yourself and your own pain, self-pity and selfish desires; one of the best ways is to get the focus off yourself and help others. How have you experienced this in your own life, especially during this Lent?

WHAT IS THE CHURCH'S TEACHING?

POINTS OF UNDERSTANDING

Where they come from and ways to use them.

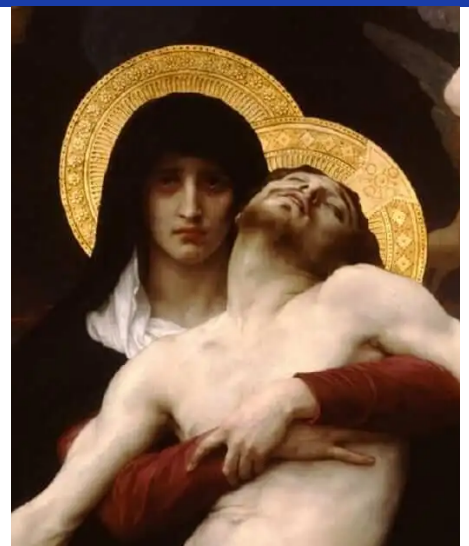


Want more? Go Deeper!

Reflection Question

God never gets tired of wanting me. How is God using my suffering right now to draw me closer to himself?

"We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world."



Step Three

CONNECT with OTHERS...

Living the Gospel with commitment & action.

As we enter Holy Week, how can I take Holy Week and make it holy every day?

Practical Activities



For the Individual – **At the Foot of the Cross**

Spend time looking at a crucifix. No words are necessary. Simply be present to the moment and see what Jesus has to say to you. If you become easily distracted or find it difficult, gently move your attention back at the crucifix. Remain there for a time and allow the experience to enfold you.



For Couples – **Wash each other's feet**

On the day that Jesus washed the feet of His apostles, take some time to wash each other's feet. It was one of Jesus' last acts on Earth to remind us that we are to love and sacrifice for each other. It can also be an intimate moment between husband and wife. (See [John 13:1-20](#) for Jesus' words about the washing of feet.)



For the Domestic Church – **Taking Time for the Sacred**

This is the holiest week of the year. Minimize your shopping this week so you can focus on godly things. Slow down. Be mindful. Recall what Jesus has done for you and accept that he is always present with you. Choose an activity, such as reading a bible story, saying a rosary, doing the stations of the cross, or an act of service, together to remind you of this.

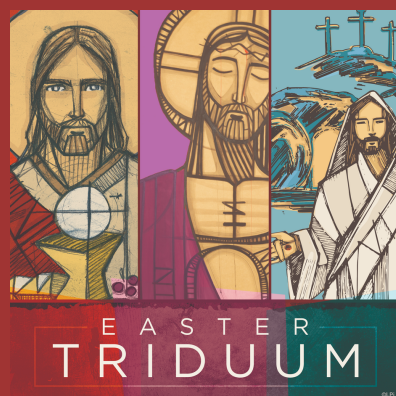


Missionary Mindset – **Surprise a Servant**

Think of those who serve you in your daily life, from the mailman to the waitress at your favorite restaurant. Take a moment to write a thoughtful message and a word of encouragement in a notecard, expressing your gratitude for what they do to help make your life easier. A little surprise might be exactly what they need to lift their spirits and remind them that there is hope in humanity and in Jesus Christ!

The holiest three days of the year--Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil, are coming soon. Not everyone can go to the Holy Land, but we can participate in the Church's sacred liturgies. It's like making a spiritual pilgrimage. Everyone should strive to participate in all three services at least once in a lifetime. Yes, they are long, but they are unlike anything else we do all year. Attend as much as you can. It will move your heart!

See our [CGS Lent Schedule](#)



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 Before a Crucifix

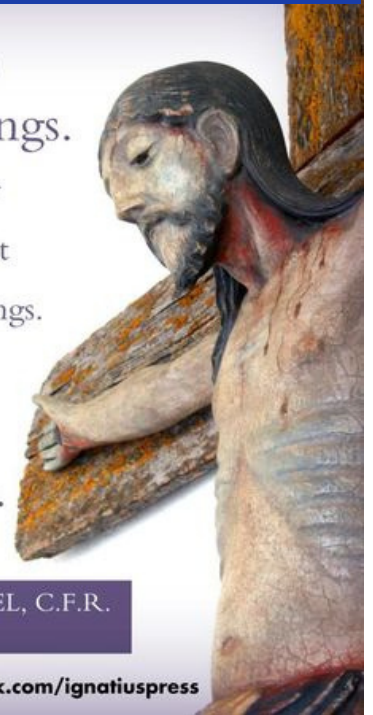
O good and gentle Jesus,
I kneel before you,
and with all the fervor of my soul
I pray that you engrave within my heart
lively sentiments of faith, hope, and love,
true repentance for my sins,
and a firm purpose of amendment.
While I see and I ponder your five wounds
with great affection and sorrow in my soul,
I have before my eyes those words of yours
that David prophesied about you:
"They have pierced my hands and feet;
I can count all my bones." (Psalm 22: 17)
Amen.

We are afraid to
share our sufferings.

We might recall that our
Lord Jesus Christ was not
afraid to share his sufferings.

He still shares them.

That's what a
crucifix is about.



FR. BENEDICT GROESCHEL, C.F.R.

From his book, *Arise from Darkness*



Ignatius press

facebook.com/ignatiuspress

Keeping Holy Week Holy

During this, the holiest week of the year, let us try to put aside the thoughts of all that still needs to be done, and enter into a spirit of deeper prayerfulness and intimacy with Jesus. God joyfully awaits us in the depths of our hearts. His presence is a place of stillness, peace and rest that we should often enter into by faith, especially in times of anxiety. May this week prepare us for all that is left to accomplish in this life, most especially the necessary preparation for our own death hope of eternal life. Let's make Holy Week holy.

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 do I unite my suffering to Jesus' passion, death, and resurrection?

WE ARE THE CHURCH

What Makes us Catholic? Veneration of the Cross

The tradition of the Veneration of the Cross dates back to the fourth-century. On Good Friday, the Christians in Jerusalem would gather before a relic of the true cross to kneel, bow, and kiss the cross in remembrance of the Passion of Christ. Today, most churches venerate the cross during their Good Friday services. Adoration or veneration of an image or representation of Christ's cross does not mean that we actually adore the material image, of course, but rather what it represents. In kneeling before the crucifix and kissing it we are paying the highest honor to our Lord's cross as the instrument of our salvation. Because the Cross is inseparable from His sacrifice, in reverencing His Cross we, in effect, adore Christ. Thus we affirm: 'We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee because by Thy Holy Cross Thou has Redeemed the World.'
(Catholic News Agency)



Word of the Week--Immortality

Immortality is the belief that the soul continues to live after bodily death. Catholics believe that not only the immortal soul lives on after death, but that even our "mortal body" will come to life again. We believe that, through God's mercy, the just will enjoy eternal life without pain or suffering with God in heaven, which is our true homeland toward which we are heading and to which, already, we belong. See CCC [#2802](#) and [#990](#)

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

Bishop Barron // [Palm Sunday -- Video \(11:35\)](#)

Christina Dehan Jaloway // [How My Parents Raised Four Adult Catholics Who Still Love Jesus and the Church](#)

Winifred Corrigan // [Nine Ways You Might Be Participating in Other People's Sins--article.](#)

Fr. Ed Broom on Catholic Exchange // [10 Ways to Contemplate Our Lord's Passion](#)

Marty Dybicz on Catholic Stand // [The Catholic Meaning of the Passion and Resurrection.](#)



Catholic Apps



Laudate



IBreviary

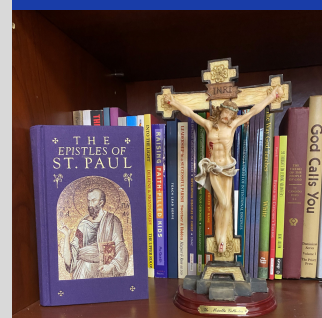


Formed

FOR YOUR MARRIAGE

[Outstanding website for those who are married or hope to be married!](#)

Book Suggestions



Current Bible Studies

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.

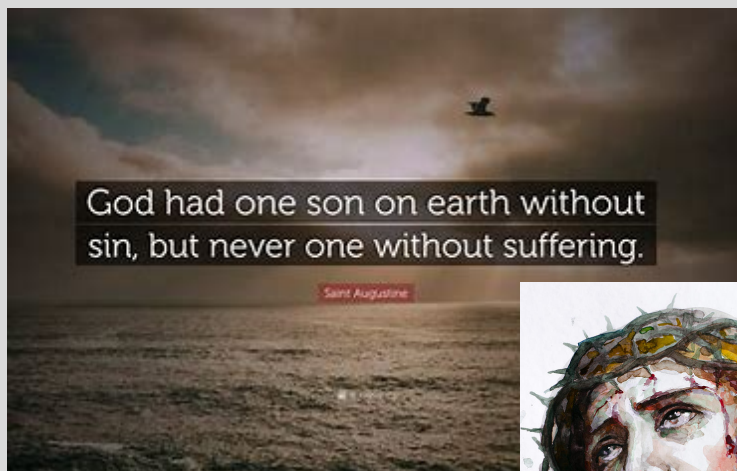


Family Ministry

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



Characteristics of Adolescents & Parents Roles

Early Adolescence

Adolescence

The Suffering God
by Laur Iduc

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

Question: What are my sufferings that I can give to Jesus?

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

Ascension Presents // If God is Merciful, Then Why is There Suffering --video (9:16)

Ascension Presents // The Real Answer to Why God Allows Suffering -- video (8:29)

Ascension Presents // The Meaning of Suffering-- video (6:14)

Life Teen // Offer it up -- blog

Chris Stefanick // Why does God let us suffer? -- video (5:00)

Adolescence (High School, Grades 9-12)

Question: What are my sufferings that I can give to Jesus?

Pope St. John Paul II // You Must Take Up Your Cross Daily--article (To young people)

Ascension Presents // If God is Merciful, Then Why is There Suffering--video (9:16)

Ascension Presents // The Real Answer to Why God Allows Suffering -- video (8:29)

Ascension Presents // The Meaning of Suffering -- video (6:14)

Life Teen // Offer it up -- 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.

Characteristics
of Children
& Parents Roles

Early Childhood

Childhood



Early Childhood (Ages 3-5)

Question: How does Jesus teach me to forgive others?

"Seeds" by Pflaum Publishing

EWTN // Catholic Keyword I Crucifix -- Video (1:00)

EWTNKids // Crucifix Coloring Page

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

Age-Specific
Materials

Childhood (Elementary, Grades 1-5)

Question: How does Jesus teach me to forgive others?

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

The Wonderful World of Benjamin Cello // O Lamb of God, I Love You
(Holy Week/Easter Special Feature) // Video (43:24)

Teaching Catholic Kids // Doing the Station of the Cross with Your Kids

EWTN//My Time with Jesus I The Way of the Cross for Kids --Video (25:43)



Easter Eggstravaganza

April 15, 2023 10:00AM till Noon

Parish Social Hall and Outside

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 - Just click "Sign Up as a Parishioner." Need help? Watch this video.

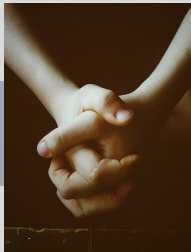
Counseling & Spiritual Direction

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

My Catholic Life // Prayers for Holy Week



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

Jen Norton // Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem

On this page

Frederick Sturm // The Weeping Women of Jerusalem--
bronze sculpture (scroll down for two views).

Mathias Grunewald // **The Isenheim Altarpiece**—detailed description of this important renaissance piece (text and pictures). A video version of the same article (14:49).

Michael O'Brien // Keeping the 'Resurrection Burning Within Our Hearts' the art of Michael O'Brien.



Using Sacred Art to Bring the Faith Alive

Sophia Institute



Sacred Art on Formed

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

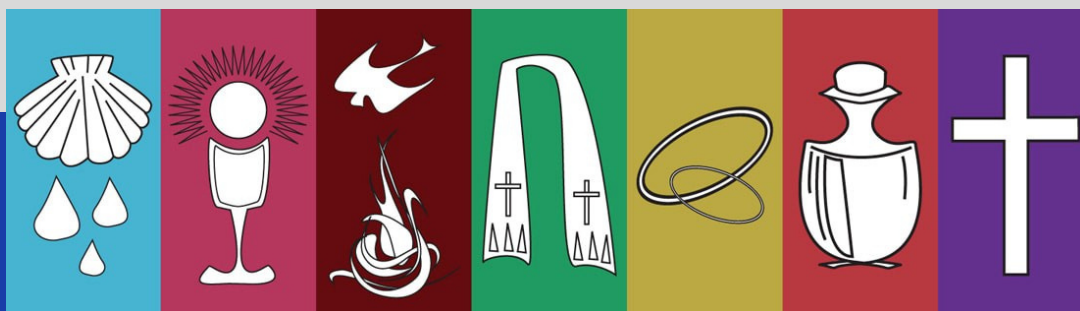
Formed.org

Music to Move You

Michael W. Smith // Surrounded (Fight My Battles)--Video (3:16)

Hillsong Worship // The Passion -- Video (4:32)

Matt Maher // Behold The Lamb of God --
Video (4:58)



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:

Christ the Good Shepherd Catholic Church



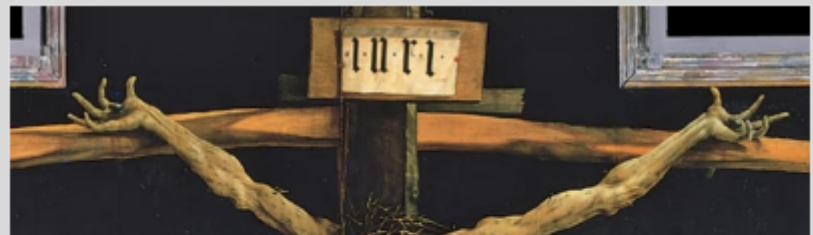
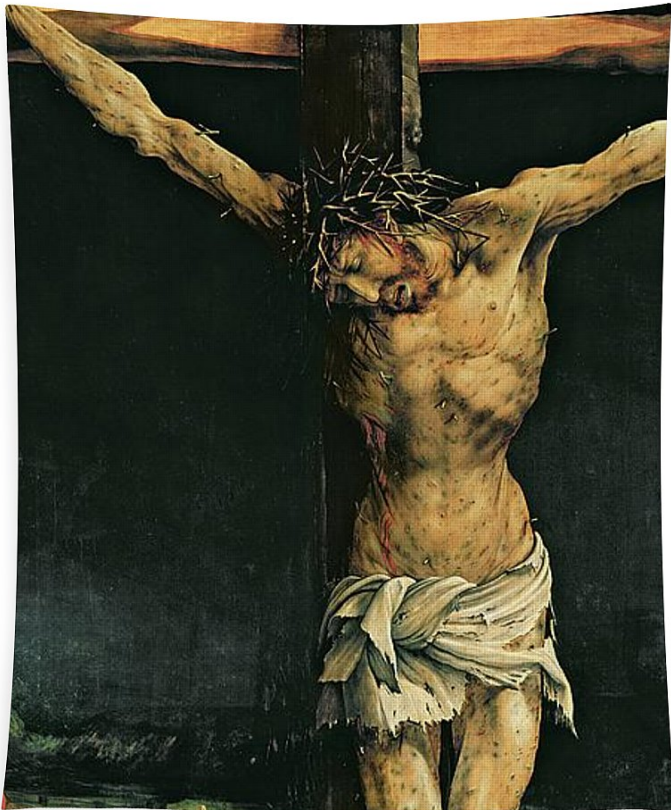
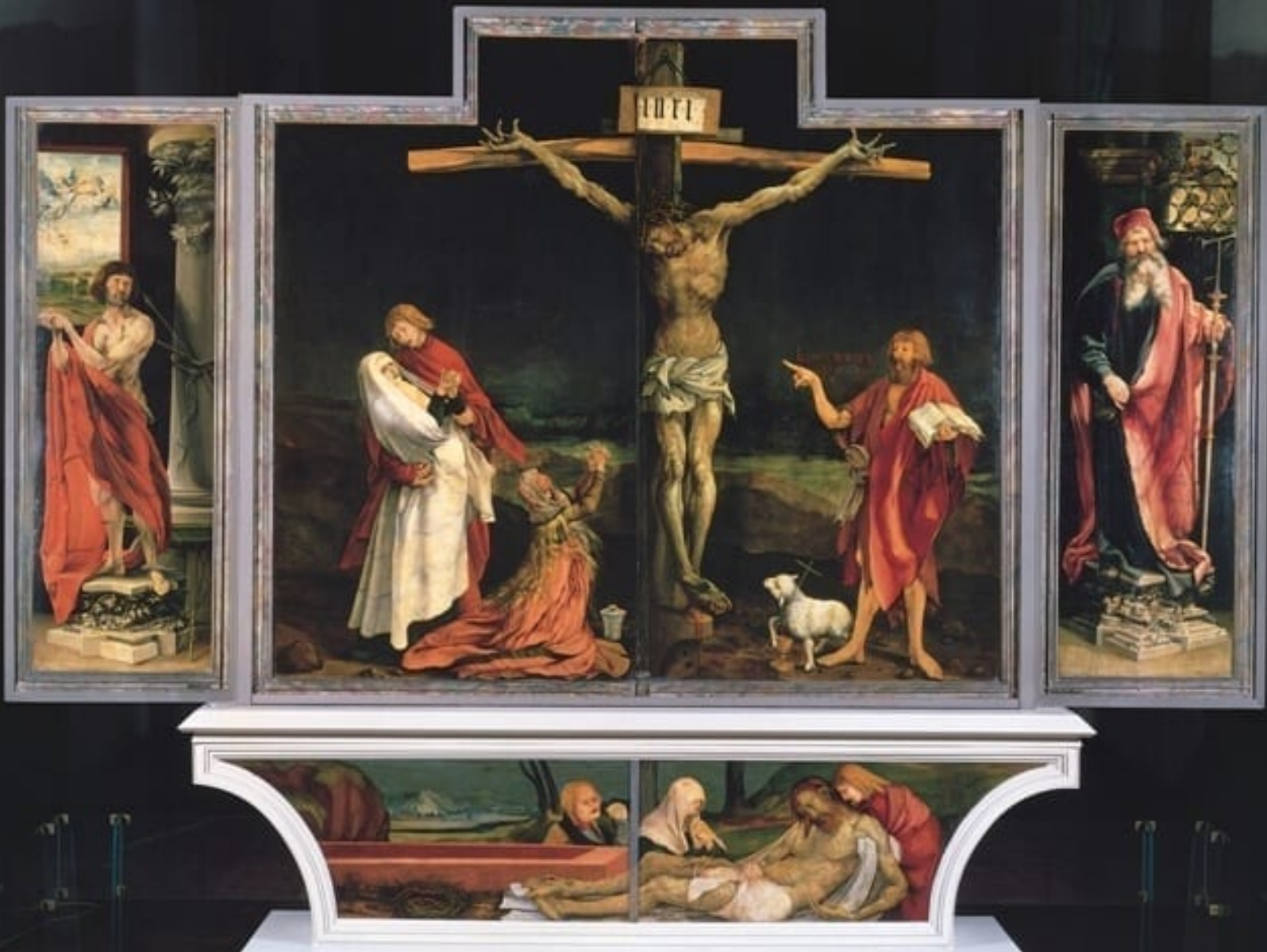
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Very Reverend James Burkart, Pastor

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.



Isenheim Altarpiece - The Crucifixion - Kelly Bagdanov %

The Isenheim Altarpiece Crucifixion panel is a stunning example of Gothic Art. This highly symbolic work

