

# CGS FAMILY

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

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Volume III, Guide 24, May 07, 2023

**How can we make sure  
everyone in our community is  
being loved and served?**

**[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.



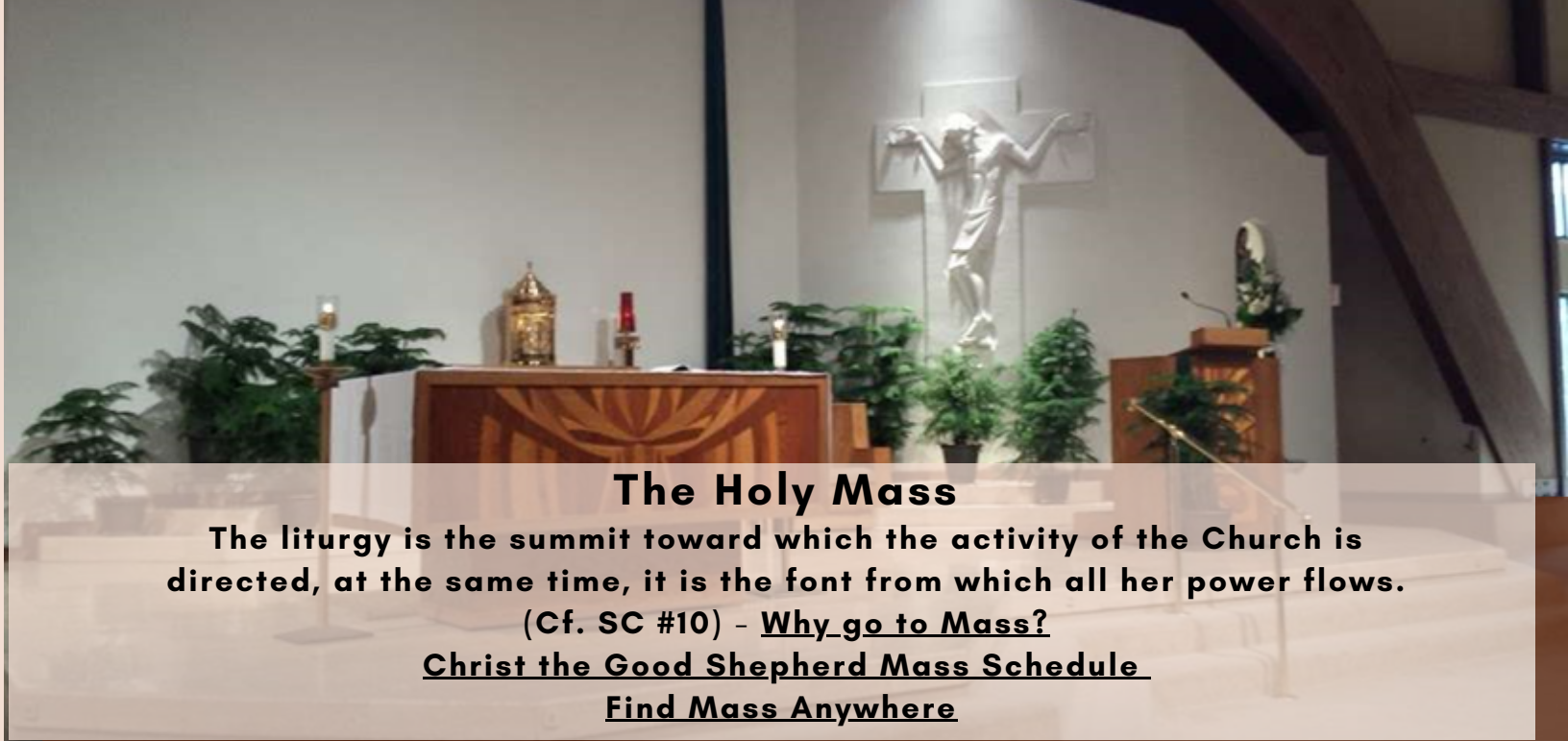
## **Confront, Discuss, Pray and Serve**

During the Easter Season in the first reading of each Sunday we have been meditating on the book of Acts of the Apostles that according to Bible scholars is part of the work of St. Luke (the author of the gospel that bears his name). And just as in his gospel we find a development of the very life of our Lord and our Savior Jesus Christ; his birth, growth, his public life, his ministry and the difficulties he faced until his own passion, death and resurrection, we can affirm that the book of Acts handles more or less a similar process but now with the first Church and in a concrete way with the apostles. From their birth at Pentecost, their development, establishment and the impact they had, their ministry that will bear much fruit, just as their teacher, Jesus affirms in today's gospel: "You will do the works that I do and make them even greater." However, in this process the book of Acts also presents us with the difficulties they faced in the growth of the community, specially when it reached to the the Gentiles. This shows us that the new Church also faced difficulties, conflicts and tensions like every community, including ours here at CGS. The teaching in today's first reading wants to show us how the apostles and the members of the first Christian community in Jerusalem resolved that issue. Pope Francis in his reflection (Regina Caeli, May 2014) affirmed that it was by confronting, discussing, praying and letting the Holy Spirit guide them that they found harmony, unity and respect for the different needs but also by honoring the various gifts and talents that God himself provides to each community. As we continue in our process of responding to the concrete needs of all the families that make up our community, we ask that the Holy Spirit guide us so that we can confront and discuss when necessary to find prayerfully united and practical solutions so that all are served and deeply love in our community.

**José Juan Valdez**



**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.**

Fifth Sunday of Easter

readings and podcasts, Year A

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)

First Reading: Acts 6: 1-7

Psalm 33: 1-2, 4-5, 18-19

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2: 4-9

Gospel: John 14: 1-12

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 make sure everyone in our community is being loved and served?

### 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.

### CONNECT with our daily LIVES

- How does your family resolve its conflicts or differences of opinions?





## CONNECT with Scripture and Tradition

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

### In the HOLY SCRIPTURE we read:

- Be of one mind, sympathetic and loving to one another. 1 Peter. 3:8
- If two of you agree on earth about anything... Mt. 18:19
- I have given you a model to follow, so that I have done for you, you should also do. Jn. 13:15

### In the Catechism of the Catholic Church

- Baptism and sharing the priesthood of Jesus #1268
- He is the Truth #2466-2470
- Christ's mysteries manifest God's love #526

### Hans Urs von Balthasar: Spiritual and Temporal Service

*"The reading in which the election of the first deacons is narrated to entrust them with an administrative, temporary task of the Church, while the apostles prefer to dedicate themselves 'to prayer and the service of the word', shows the dimensions of the spiritual house built on Christ."*

### Discuss

1. How do I relate to Thomas or Philip in today's gospel story?
2. In what ways does Jesus show us the Father?
3. What can we do so we make sure that we are serving everyone in our community 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

- If I ever found myself in serious trouble or in a difficult situation, how would I handle it?



## 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 be more inclusive in at church, school, work, etc.?

#### Practical Activities



##### *For the Individual* - **Pray for our Deacons**

This week intentionally pray for each one of our deacons, here are their names: Dolores "Lolo" Villafranco, Stacy Millsap, Alberto Patetta, Mark Clancy and Jim Gallagher.



##### *For Couples* - **Meditate and share "Don't let your heart be troubled"**

Share with your spouse what troubles your heart. Then, together pray for the help you need to hear and accept Jesus' words.



##### *For the Domestic Church* - **Sharing life experiences.**

Invite a group of friends or relatives to share experiences of their paths of life. The joyous moments, the difficult and challenging moments, and how they got through them and the wisdom they gained because of that process.



##### *Missionary Mindset* - **Praying and doing something for those having bigger problems in our world.**

Discover or find in the news this week a troubled person, or a group of people experiencing difficulties or even a country suffering any calamity. Then pray for them and take action that will help alleviate the fear or problems of that person(s).

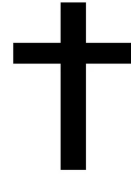
**Reflection Series Continues**  
**Now our very own parochial vicar:**  
**Fr. David Michael Moses**  
**Monday, May 8th, 2023.**  
**11:00 am and 7:00 pm**





# 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.



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

## Prayer - Help Us To Be There

**Holy, life-giving Spirit,  
infuse in us your ability to remain present to your people.**

**Help us to be there,  
to be right there,**

**for the people who need us.**

**There for young people,  
there for the elderly,**

**there for the brokenhearted;**

**fire our hearts with your life-changing presence.**

**Even though we know you to be everywhere  
and in everything,**

**give us the ability to be fully in one place at a time,  
open and ready to love.**

**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?

**How can we make sure everyone in our community is being loved and served?**

# WE ARE THE CHURCH

## What Makes us Catholic?

### Deacons

Deacon – Literally, a servant, the diaconate is the first of holy orders. Whether is a transitioning (later to be ordained to the priesthood or a permanent deacon, the Bishop confers the stole and the dalmatic and says the words "Receive the power of the reading of the Gospel in the Church of God, both for the living and the death, in the name of the Lord. Vatican II Declares: "It is the duty of the deacon, to the extent that he has been authorized by competent authority, to administer baptism solemnly, to be custodian and dispenser of the Eucharist, to assist at and bless marriages in the name of the Church, to bring Viaticum to the dying, to read the Sacred Scripture to people, to instruct and exhort the people, to preside at the worship and prayer of the faithful, to administer sacramentals, a to officiate at a funeral and burial services. (LG 29)



## Word of the Week - **Diakonia**

Diakonia (Greek) is a noun used 32 times in the New Testament and variously translated as "ministry," "service," "relief," or "support." It is used in Acts 6:1 regarding the serving of food and in Acts 6:4 referring to the "ministry of the Word." In Acts 20:24 and 21:19, Paul uses the word to refer to his ministry among the Gentiles. In Romans 12:6-7 it is referred to as a spiritual gift—the gift of serving.

## Faith Groups at CGS

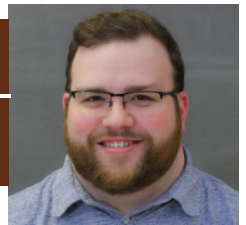


Join a small Faith Group  
or start one of your own!

**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

- uCatholic // **What is the Role of Deacons? | Made for Glory** Video - 3:40
- The Saint Paul Seminary // **The Catholic diaconate, explained.** Video - 7:28
- The Bible in a Year (with Fr. Mike Schmitz) // **Day 327: Origin of the Diaconate** - Video 23:11
- A Jesuit Adventure // **Sunday Homily for 5th Sunday of Easter year A - 7 May 2023** - Video 9:05
- SOLT Liturgy Prep // **5th Sunday of Easter (Year A)** - Video 3:07

### Catholic Apps



Laudate



IBreviary



Formed

### FOR YOUR MARRIAGE

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

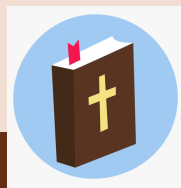
### Book Suggestions



### 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](http://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 we love those inside and outside our community?**

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

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

Ascension Presents // How to Love Someone that is Hard to love -- video (8:22)

Ascension Presents // Love is an Ability -- video (3:58)

Ascension Presents // How to Love Annoying People -- video (12:06)

Ascension Presents // God Made You for Community -- video (9:14)

## Characteristics of Adolescents & Parents Roles

Early Adolescence

Adolescence



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

**Question: How do we love those inside and outside our community?**

Ascension Presents // How to Love Someone that is Hard to love -- video (8:22)

Ascension Presents // Love is an Ability -- video (3:58)

Ascension Presents // How to Love Annoying People -- video (12:06)

Ascension Presents // God Made You for Community -- video (9:14)



## 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 we help others feel part of our church family?**

**Pe-K: "Seeds"** by Pflaum Publishing

Marcam Catholic Kids Show // [Building a Church with Marcam](#) -- Video (13:00)

Formed // [Our Mother Mary | Lukas Club | Episode 4](#) -- Video (10:00)



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

Characteristics  
of Children  
& Parents Roles

Early Childhood

Childhood

Age-Specific  
Materials



## Childhood

(Elementary, Grades 1-5)

**Question: How do we help others feel part of our church family?**

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

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

Sophia Institute // Ready to Use Lesson for Each Sunday

Marcam Catholic Kids Show // [Building a Church with Marcam](#) -- Video (13:00)

My Time with Jesus // [The Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Mother](#) -- Video (27:01)

**"How My Parents Raised Four Adult Catholics  
Who Still love Jesus and the Church"**

One Family's Testimonial

By Christina Dehan Jaloway on Catholic Link



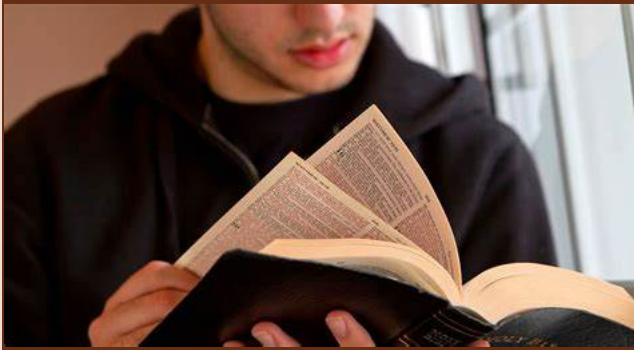
# GENERAL RESOURCES

## 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.

[Parish Prayer](#)

## Prayers and Praying



- [Pray More Novenas//Novena for Parish Renewal](#)
- [Parish 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

Getty's Image Signature // Hands All In



Brent Kastler // Take My Hands - Drawing

### 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

Rebecca St. James // Beautiful Stranger

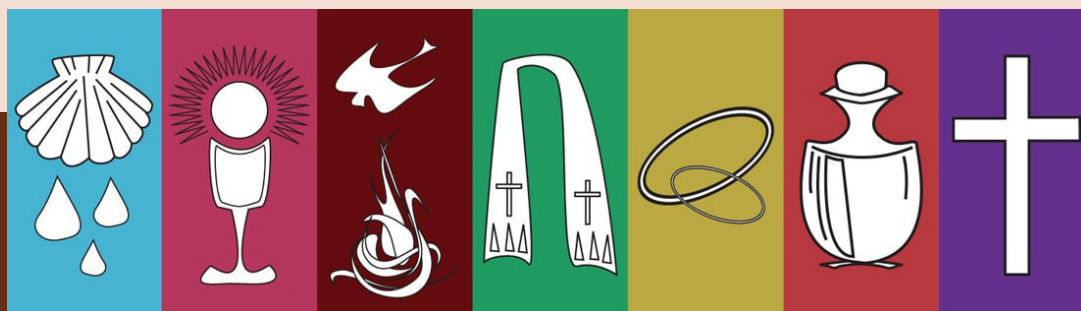
-- Video (2:53)

No Other Name // Lead You to the

Cross -- Video (4:38)

John Michael Talbot // Here I Am Lord --

Video (4:14)



## 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](mailto: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](#)



[@cgsyouth](#)

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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.