

CGS FAMILY

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Volume III, Guide 25, May 14, 2023



In what ways is the Holy Spirit working in my life?

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

God is Always at Work

Fr. Tom Hawxhurst, pastor of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Houston, often says: "God is always at work in the world." Fr. Tom is right! God is always at work because his constant attention is "for us and for our salvation," which is why Jesus "came down from heaven and...for our sake was crucified, died and was buried." (1) Everything God does is directed toward our eternal salvation. God wants relationship with us and he gives us the divine assistance we need in the form of a sublime Helper, as Jesus says: "...I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows him. But you know him, because he remains with you, and will be in you." (2) In all the struggles of this life, God promises to be always at work in the world and particularly in our lives--working to change us, fulfill us, and use us for his good purposes; in other words, he is at work, busy giving us life. The Holy Spirit is "...the Lord, the giver of Life..." The Greek word "life" used here is zoë (ζωή) means spiritual life, a life of grace first given to us at our baptism, a life that endures forever.

The Holy Spirit is very much aware of my situation and he knows me deeply. "The Holy Spirit is advocate, helper, and guide." (3) He knows my troubles and he knows when I am in trouble. He is the advocate that stands up for me when I cannot save myself. He helps me seek, understand, and follow his most holy will. In this week's Guide, let us explore together the action of the Holy Spirit in our lives and the ways in which is always at work, transforming us into images of his beloved Son.

Ivana T. Meshell

1) As in the Nicene Creed we say at Mass.

2) John 14:16-17

3) Points of Understanding, Grade 3.

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

Sixth Sunday of Easter

readings and podcasts, Year A

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)

First Reading: Acts 8: 5-8, 14-17

Psalms 66: 1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3: 15-18

Gospel: John 14: 15-21

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 ways is the Holy Spirit working in my life?

CONNECT with our GOD through Prayer

- 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

When have you seen signs of the Holy Spirit working in your life or the life of someone close to you?



The wind blows where it wills, and you can hear the sound it makes, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes; so it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

John 3:8

CONNECT with Scripture and Tradition



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

In the HOLY SCRIPTURE

- No one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit--[1 Corinthians 12:3-11](#)
- The Holy Spirit is the gift of Jesus: as water that wells up to eternal life--[John 4:14](#)
- God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us--[Roman 5:5](#)

In the Catechism of the Catholic Church

- The mission of the Spirit of adoption is to unite us to Christ and make us live in him--[CCC #690](#)
- What the Holy Spirit does for us--[CCC #688](#)
- Joint mission of the Son of God and the Holy Spirit---[CCC #689](#)

One of the ways Catholics differ with our Protestant brothers and sisters in doctrine is that Catholics believe that we can and should grow in holiness. While grace is freely given without our earning it or deserving it, we cooperate with God's grace by keeping God's commandments and being obedient to his will, which is always consistent with his love for us. Thus, through divine favor and assistance, we become more and more the people God created us to be. [LEARN MORE](#)

WHAT IS THE CHURCH'S TEACHING?

POINTS OF UNDERSTANDING

Where they come from and ways to use them.

Discuss

1. The Holy Spirit knows when I am and troubled and when I am in trouble. Do I call on the Holy Spirit at times like these? What are some ways the Holy Spirit helps me?
2. At times, I myself can be the answer to someone's prayer by my presence, my assistance, my acts of love and mercy. Describe a time when you were an answer to someone's prayer or someone else was an answer to yours.
3. The Holy Spirit compels us not to be still, but to MOVE, GO, TELL THE WORLD about the love of Jesus. In what ways am I doing this? How can I do this more?

Go Deeper!

The World Needs the Holy Spirit

Reflection Question

The Holy Spirit knows me deeply. What are some of the things I try to hide from the Holy Spirit? In what ways might I stop hiding and turn to the Holy Spirit in these aspects of my life?

You are the person
God is preparing as
the answer to
someone's prayers.

CONNECT with OTHERS...

Living the Gospel with commitment & action.

What is one thing you are willing to change in your life so that you are able to be open to the Holy Spirit working in your life?

Practical Activities



For the Individual – **Identify One of your Spiritual Gifts**

Need help identifying one of your spiritual gifts? Pray for God's help while reading scripture. Several passages of Scripture list spiritual gifts (Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:8-10; and Ephesians 4:7-13). This week take time to develop this gift by learning about it, seeking ways to use it, and getting guidance and mentoring from others.



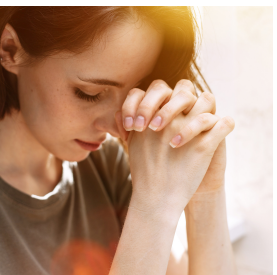
For Couples – **Acknowledge Each Other's Spiritual Gifts**

God never intended for us to have to be “the best” at something in order for us to us the gifts He gave you. Part of striving together as a couple is to discover each of your spiritual gifts. This week take the opportunity to build up and encourage your spouse by pointing out the areas in which you see God working in and through him or her.



For the Domestic Church – **Send a Thank You Card and a Prayer**

Together talk about the people in your lives that have shared their spiritual gifts with you. Discuss how those gifts enriched your life as an individual and also as a domestic church. Send a special thank you card to them letting them know how God has allowed your lives to be touched by them. Make sure that you pray for them during the upcoming week.



Missionary Mindset – **Become a Prayer Warrior**

A prayer warrior is someone who understands the need to pray for those who cannot pray. This can be someone on their deathbed, alone in a nursing home, someone who wonders if God exists, the unborn, someone you know or don't know. You don't have to be perfect, just faithful.

"Discover your Spiritual Gifts" A Morning of Reflection

June 10, 2023

9:30 AM till Noon

Christ the Good Shepherd PLC



For information
and registration

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



**Breathe into me Holy Spirit, that all my thoughts may be holy.
Move in me, Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy.
Attract my heart, Holy Spirit, that I may love only what is holy.
Strengthen me, Holy Spirit, that I may defend all that is 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?

In what ways is the Holy Spirit working in my life?

WE ARE THE CHURCH

What Makes us Catholic?

Setting the World on Fire: Life in the Holy Spirit

At the heart of Christian life is the encounter with Jesus Christ, and the ongoing call to make Jesus the total meaning and center of our lives. Being Christian is being in Christ. As the people of God, we are made holy by our incorporation into Christ at baptism and we are called to become holy, to deepen our discipleship to Christ as learners and followers of his way back to the Father. In this pilgrimage in holiness and to holiness, it is the power of the Holy Spirit that enables us to respond to Jesus in our time.... the Holy Spirit is the power through which the risen Lord remains present in the history of the world. This Spirit is present within a Church which is holy and called to grow in holiness... the Spirit brings grace to the ordinary, heals and reconciles, and bears fruit as the principal agent of evangelization.



Word of the Week - Paraclete

Paraclete (Greek: παράκλητος, romanized: Paráklētos) is used five times in the bible describing the Holy Spirit; each time in John's Gospel (John 14:16, 14:26, 15:26, 16:7; 1 John 2:1). A paraclete is an advocate: someone who calls out to you and speaks up for you, who stands by your side and comforts you, who knows you intimately, is deeply familiar with your situation, reassures you and gives you well-founded hope in troubled times, and who negotiates on your behalf or pleads your case before a judge. No wonder the Holy Spirit is the greatest gift of all! [LEARN MORE](#)

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

- Ray Sullivan on *Catholic Stand* // Invoking the Holy Spirit in our Lives--article.
- Sister Anna Marie McGuan on *Simply Catholic* // Why the Holy Spirit Matters--article, 5 minute read.
- Catholic Ireland // Gifts, Fruits, and Action of the Holy Spirit--article.
- Loyola Press // Making Good Choices (with the help of the Holy Spirit)--short article.
- Jeff Cavins // The Holy Spirit in the Life of Catholics--video (6:49)
- Bishop Robert Barron // Understanding the Holy Spirit--video (28:08)

**You, O Lord, who have
have prepared a place
for my soul,
prepare my soul
for that place.**

Fr. David Michael Moses



Catholic Apps



Formed



IBreviary



Laudate

**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 does the Holy Spirit help me at home and at school?

- **Grades 5 & 6: "Venture"** by Pflaum Publishing
- **Grades 7 & 8: "Visions"** by Pflaum Publishing.
- Ascension Presents // What Does the Holy Spirit Actually Do (Superhero Analogy) -- video (9:25)
- Ascension Presents // What it Means to be Charismatic -- video (8:31)
- Life Teen // Inviting the Holy Spirit into your Life -- video (4:45)
- Life Teen // The Advocate -- video (5:18)
- Catholic Central // The Holy Spirit -- video (4:30)

Characteristics of Adolescents & Parents Roles

Early Adolescence

Adolescence



Adolescence (High School, Grades 9-12)

Question: How does the Holy Spirit help me at home and at school?

- Ascension Presents // What Does the Holy Spirit Actually Do (Superhero Analogy) -- video (9:25)
- Ascension Presents // What it Means to be Charismatic -- video (8:31)
- Life Teen // Inviting the Holy Spirit into your Life -- video (4:45)
- Life Teen // The Advocate -- video (5:18)
- Catholic Central // The Holy Spirit -- video (4:30)



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 does the Holy Spirit help me each day?

- **Pre-K: "Seeds"** by Pflaum Publishing
- Activity: Holy Spirit Coloring Page
- Adventure Catechism // Who is the Holy Spirit? -- video (7:59)

Characteristics of Children & Parents Roles

Early Childhood

Childhood

Age-Specific Materials



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

Childhood (Elementary, Grades 1-5)

Question: How does the Holy Spirit help me each day?

- **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
- Activity: 7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit coloring page
- Adventure Catechism // Who is the Holy Spirit? -- video (7:59)
- Roamin' Catholic // Mariam Apparitions -- video (19:47)

GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

WISDOM

To value the things of God

UNDERSTANDING

To grasp faith's mysteries

COUNSEL

To make wise decisions

FORTITUDE

To strengthen your will

KNOWLEDGE

To enlighten your mind



PIETY

To love and serve God

FEAR OF THE LORD

To respect God's majesty

A Catholic Mom's Life

"Tour My Catholic Home"

Video (8:34)



Vacation Bible School

9am - 1pm

June 12-16

July 17-21 (waiting list)

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](https://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

Prayers to the Holy Spirit



Ask for Prayers



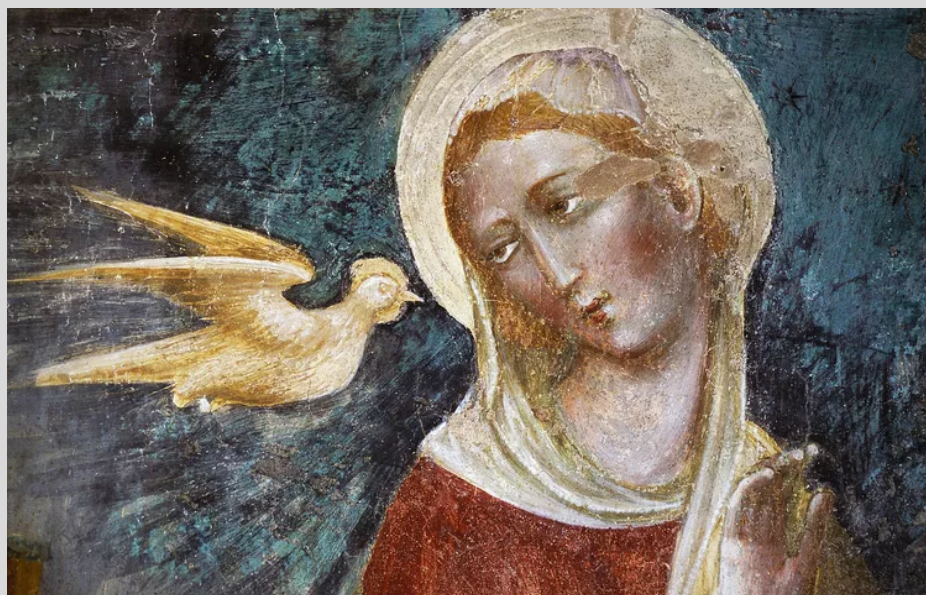
Common Prayers and Formulas to Learn by Heart

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



Dove of Holy Spirit and the Virgin

Detail of fresco from Civic Art Gallery of Recanati
Marche, Italy.

De Agostini/C. Sappa/Getty Images

**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](#)

COVER IMAGE

Spirit Rising
by Marina Petro
Ink on paper, undated.

Music to Move You

Francesca LaRosa // [Prayer to the Holy Spirit by Saint Augustine](#)--music video (3:49).

Catholic Music Initiative // [Holy, Holy, Holy](#)--music video (3:49).

Oasis Worship // [Come, Holy Spirit](#)--contemporary music video (5:05)



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
DISCIPLESHP@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.