

CGS FAMILY

THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

Volume III, Guide 26, May 21, 2023



**How does prayer empower
us to go and make disciples?**

www.cgsgcc.church

Welcome



HELLO, CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD FAMILY!

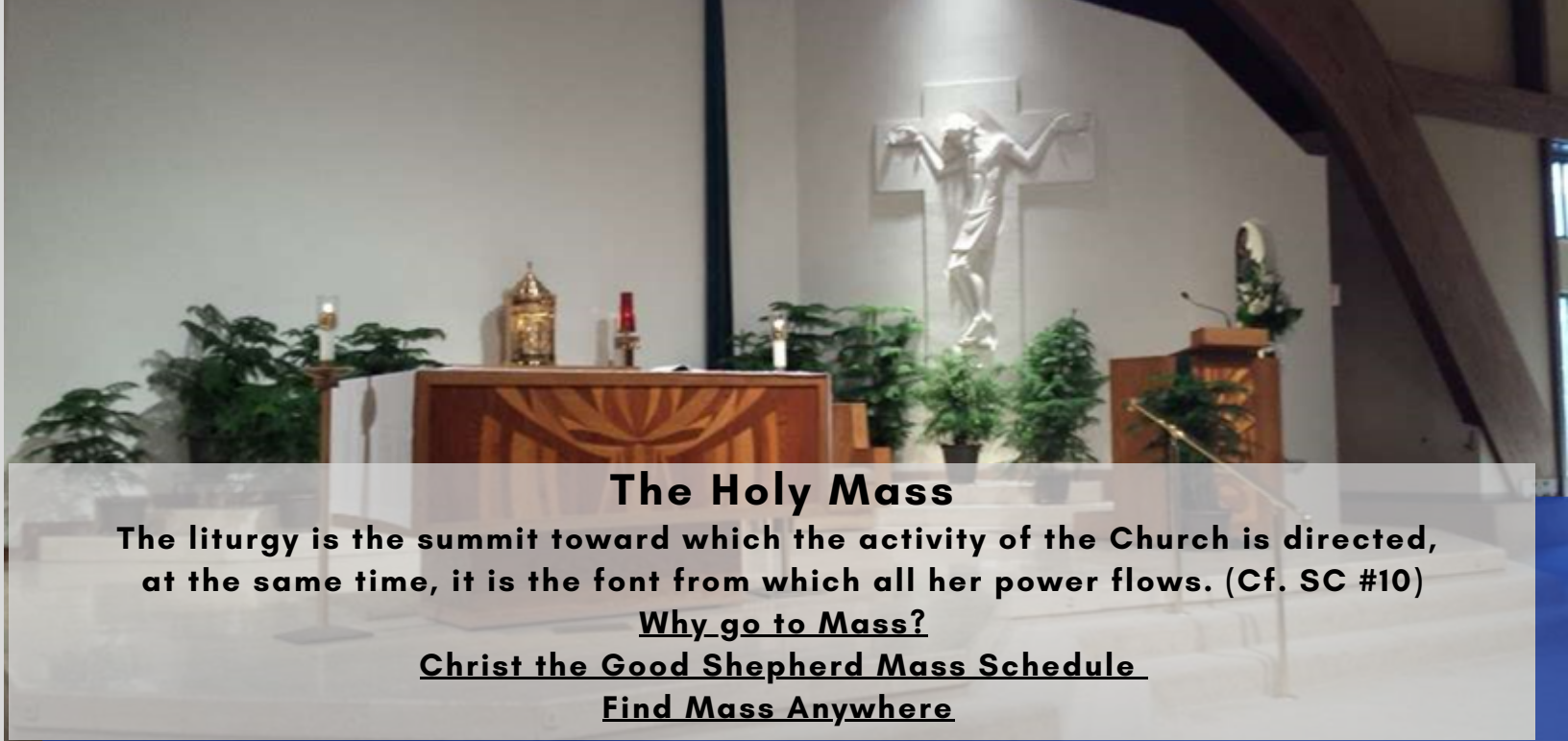
Welcome to our weekly CGS Guide that helps our parish families to grow in knowledge of the faith and deepen our relationship with Jesus as his disciples. As we encounter Jesus, we come to know him, love him, and serve him so that we can be reasonably happy in this life and happy with him forever in heaven.

Prayer

In 1991, the bishops of the United States decided to permit different dioceses to make the decision to transfer the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord to the Seventh Sunday of Easter or to continue observing the feast on the Thursday before. The bishop of the then Diocese of Galveston-Houston, The Most Rev. Joseph A. Fiorenza, made the decision back then to transfer the feast in our diocese so that more of the faithful would be able to benefit from the observance of this beautiful mystery and truth of our faith. In our first reading today from The Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11 the author, who is St. Luke, explain why he wrote both the Gospel and this treatise. "In the first book (the Gospel of St. Luke) I dealt with all that Jesus did and taught..." Then he proceeds to continue describing how the Resurrected Jesus appeared to the disciples and His mandate to them. In our Gospel this week, Matthew 28:16-20, Jesus says, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age" (Matthew 28:16-20). How does prayer empower us to go and make disciples? What a wonderful question for all of us to consider during this Easter Season. Prayer keeps us connected to Christ. Prayer keeps us hungry to know more about the teachings of Jesus. Prayer keeps our souls connected to God through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. How are we bringing our own growing understanding of Jesus to our spouses and our families? How are we sharing our faith in Jesus with our children and others? Prayer is certainly about my own personal relationship with Jesus and my own personal spiritual growth. But prayer to God the Father, through Jesus Christ the Lord in the power of the Holy Spirit always brings up within us the gifts and talents that God gave us at the moment of our conception and that He asks us to grow into throughout our lives. Prayer empowers us to go out into the world. So, what are we waiting for?

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.

The Ascension of Our Lord

readings and podcasts, Year A

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)

First Reading: Acts 1: 1-11

Psalm 47: 2-3, 6-7, 8-9

Second Reading: Ephesians 1: 17-23

Gospel: Matthew 28: 16-20

**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 does prayer empower us to go and make disciples?

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

How have you seen your prayer life change you and change others?



CONNECT with Scripture and Tradition

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

In the HOLY SCRIPTURE we read:

- How amazing for those who tell others about Jesus. Romans 10:14-15
- Pray at every opportunity you get. Ephesians 6:18
- The Lord will work with us when we go out to tell others about Him! Mark 16:19-20

In the Catechism of the Catholic Church

- Prayer is important for our relationship with God. CCC #2558
- Perseverance helps your prayer life and relationships. CCC #2742
- Church's mission is to be sent out by Christ. CCC #831

"The word of God constantly shows us how God challenges those who believe in him 'to go forth.' Moses heard God's call: "Go, I send you" (Ex 3:10) and led the people towards the promised land (cf. Ex 3:17). To Jeremiah God says: "To all whom I send you, you shall go" (Jer 1:7). In our day Jesus' command to "go and make disciples" echoes in the changing scenarios and ever new challenges to the Church's mission of evangelization, and all of us are called to take part in this new missionary "going forth". Excerpt from Evangelii Gaudium

Discuss

1. Describe a time when prayer guided you to go talk to someone about Christ.
2. In what ways do you help others become disciples? Is this by bible studies, fellowship, teaching, or other ways?
3. What are some of the joys and struggles of discipleship?

WHAT IS THE CHURCH'S TEACHING?

POINTS OF UNDERSTANDING

Where they come from and ways to use them.



The Great Commission--Matthew 28:18-20

Want more? Go Deeper!

Reflection Question

We are called to grow in our relationship with God so that we may grow in relationship with others. What are some of the obstacles that prevent us from helping others become disciples?

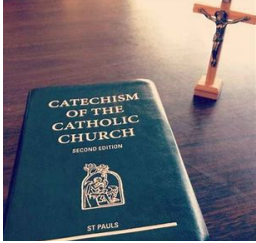


CONNECT with OTHERS...

Living the Gospel with commitment & action.

What is one thing you are willing to change in your life so that you can be an instrument of empowerment for others?

Practical Activities



For the Individual - **Back to the Basics**

Take some time to review certain teachings, beliefs, or history that you may not be familiar with. Review and learn these truths to help disciple others down the road. Review your prayer life as well because prayer will help everything else!



For Couples - **Couples Night Out**

Invite other couples from the parish to partake in a night out of fellowship, food, and conversation. This can help couples walk side by side with others while sharing similar joys and struggles of every day life.



For the Domestic Church - **Homebound Mission**

Contact Deacon Lolo in our [Social Services Ministry](#) for a list of parishioners who may need help with certain tasks. Help them by painting, changing light bulbs, mowing lawns, home chores, carpentry, etc. This is a great way to get to know others while working in a family setting.



Missionary Mindset - **Ministry of Presence**

Events and conferences are also impactful experiences for disciples and disciple-makers. They can rekindle the fire, or start a fire. Click the link to discover events within the Archdiocese: [Around the Archdiocese](#)

What's the deal with the Ascension of Christ?

Is he in outer space or something?



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.

GO AND
make disciples
OF ALL
nations

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

Create in me a love ever more open

Create in me a love ever more open, Lord,
that I may move beyond myself,
that I may transcend man-made borders
that I may go to the periphery,
that I may seek the hidden exile,
that I may offer generous hospitality, and
that I may rid racism from my heart.

In this way, may I help create conditions
where every person can thrive,
where community replaces isolation,
where racism is stamped out,
where justice is restored,

where work, land and housing are available for all, and
where the human family can live in harmony.

Guide us on the journey to the true path of peace, Lord.
Help us live out your vision of a world where no one is excluded
and the earth's goods are shared and cared for by all.

Amen.



Inspired by chapter 3 of Pope Francis' encyclical letter, *Brothers and Sisters to Us* ([Fratelli Tutti](#)).

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 does prayer empower us to go and make disciples?

WE ARE THE CHURCH

What Makes us Catholic?

"A Church on the way out," Missionary by its Nature.

Pope Francis says, "All men, all women have a concern in their hearts, good and bad, but there is concern. Listen to those concerns. It does not say: 'Go and proselytize (or impose your beliefs). No no! Go and listen.'" Throughout successive addresses, on various occasions, the Pope has created his own vocabulary. He calls the Catholic Church. "Church that moves", "that opts for the last ones", "that goes to the periphery", "that comes out of itself," "that walks down the street" (to the 'street priests'), "Inclusive Church, "does not exclude", "not self-centered," not narcissistic, "that does not live for itself," "is not a notary," "entirely missionary Church," missionary disciple, "field hospital," refugee camp," the Church is not a NGO' etc. The Church on the way out, one who listens to the concerns of the people on the street, always with joy.

From Catholic.net



Word of the Week - Missionary Disciple

A disciple is someone who receives instruction and is disciplined in a way of life. A missionary is someone who is sent somewhere with a specific purpose or mission. Thus, a missionary disciple is someone who is a follower of the Lord, does their best to obey all His commandments, growing in relationship by prayer, and goes out to tell others about Him. This is an ongoing process of prayer, learning, and sharing the Faith.

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

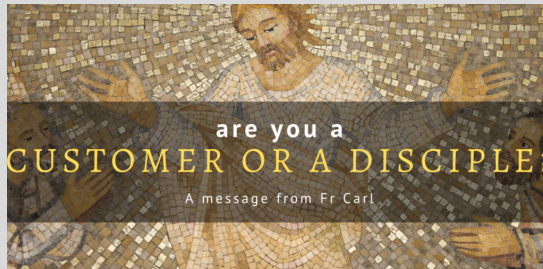
Find resources for your family, household, or small Faith Group, including how to use this Guide, and much more. Visit our website OR scan the QR code with your smart phone.



ADULT & FAMILY MINISTRY

Adulthood

- Loyola Press // The Seven "D's" of Discipleship--article.
- Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux// Forming Missionary Disciples the 5 -- video (4:23)
- Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux // What is a Missionary Disciple -- video (5:25)
- USCCB // Living as Missionary Disciples -- video (6:08)
- Bishop Robert Barron // On Prayer -- video (13:01)
- Catholic Exchange // The Great Commission -- article
- FRG Ministry // The Great Commission with Fr. Rob Galea -- video (31:38)
- Theology of the Body Institute // How to Pray as a Catholic -- video (13:33)
- Breaking in the Habit // Why do We Pray? -- video (4:40)

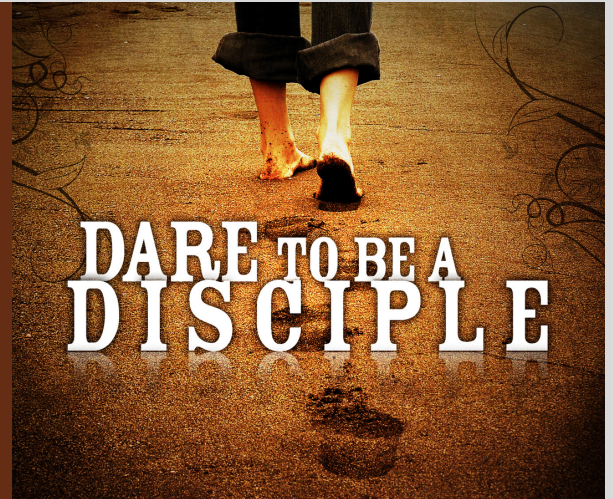


How is a customer different from a disciple?

Article by Fr. Carl Arcosa

7 "D's" of discipleship

1. Desire
2. Discernment
3. Decision
4. Discipline
5. Dwelling
6. Dependence
7. Doing



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 life is the first place where children learn how to pray as the Church. Through family prayer, children experience the first witness of Christ's living memory.

Points of Understanding, Grade 3: 4.4.1

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

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

Question: How can prayer help your everyday relationships?

Grades 5 & 6: "Venture" by Pflaum Publishing

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

Ascension Presents // How to be a Good Disciple of Christ? -- video (8:02)

Ascension Presents // Are You Called to Be a Missionary? -- video (8:14)

Ascension Presents // The Power of Prayer -- video (6:04)

SJCC // How to Pray for Catholic Teens -- video (3:06)

Saint Dominic Media // Made for Glory the Great Commission -- video (2:13)

Characteristics of Adolescents & Parents Roles

Early Adolescence

Adolescence



Adolescence (High School, Grades 9-12)

Question: How can prayer help your everyday relationships?

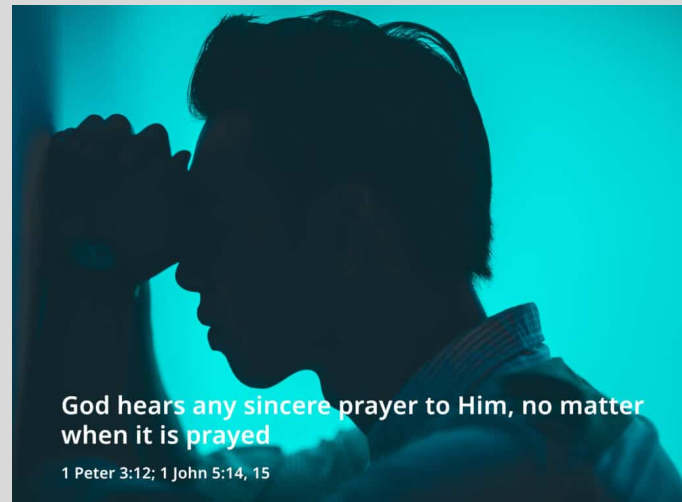
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Middle School and High School Meet

Wednesdays, 7-8:30pm

Sundays, 5-6:30pm

Praise Songs from 6:30-7pm pm Sundays

Followed by Adoration, 7:00-9:00pm

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.

New

Nursery Pages

Gospel of the Week and coloring pages to do with your Toddler and Pre-schooler

Early Childhood (Ages 3-5)

Question: When do I pray?

Pre -K: "Seeds" by Pflaum Publishing

Lukas Club // Prayer--Video (12:00)

Activity//Everyday this week ask Jesus to help you be like Him.

Childhood (Elementary, Grades 1-5)

Question: When do I pray with others?

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

Benjamin Cello // The Prosody Party: Poems & Prayers--Video (21:00)

Activity// Write your own prayer poem.

**Characteristics
of Children
& Parents Roles**

Early Childhood
Childhood

Age-Specific
Materials



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

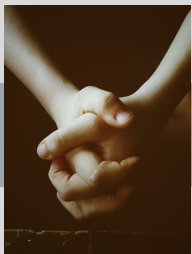
Counseling & Spiritual Direction

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

Lord Calls // Prayer for Missionaries -- 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

Christ the Redeemer (Christo Redentor) statue of Jesus Christ at the summit of Mount Corcovado, Rio de Janeiro, in southeastern Brazil, completed in 1931, it is the largest art deco statue in the world.

Music to Move You

CAIN// The Commission -- music video (3:15)

7eventh Time Down // God is on the Move -- music video (2:56)

Leeland // Waymaker -- lyrics (8:24)

Will Reagan // Commission -- audio (5:33)

Kim Walker Smith // Where You Go I'll Go -- lyrics (7:38)



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

On this page:
Szymon Czechowicz
[The Great Commission](#)

See also this contemporary version
Drawn to the Word--Paul Oman
[The Great Commission](#)



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.



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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.