

CGS FAMILY

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Volume III, Guide 32, July 2, 2023



**Who helped you come to
faith?**

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

Share, Show, Sanctify

As I pondered and prayed over the question this week, my childhood memories were a flood of joy. Memories of my family together saying prayers, going to mass, servicing others at the church and in the community. Visions of my grandparents praying for me and with me. Rosaries, nighttime blessings, novenas, Stations of the Cross, grace at family meals, and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament etched into my heart, mind and soul. All bring me to our Lord and God, Jesus Christ. But who brought me to faith, which one? I came to realize each one did by sharing, showing and sanctifying me and my life. Let me explain.

Sharing- honest sharing is to impart the truth, and in this case, it was literally the Gospel truth. Sometimes the truth is hard to hear and sometimes I did not like hearing it. My parents, my grandparents, loved me enough to be honest. They knew that the truth was not relative or as the world saw it, rather they set expectations for me to follow. Expectations that included living as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

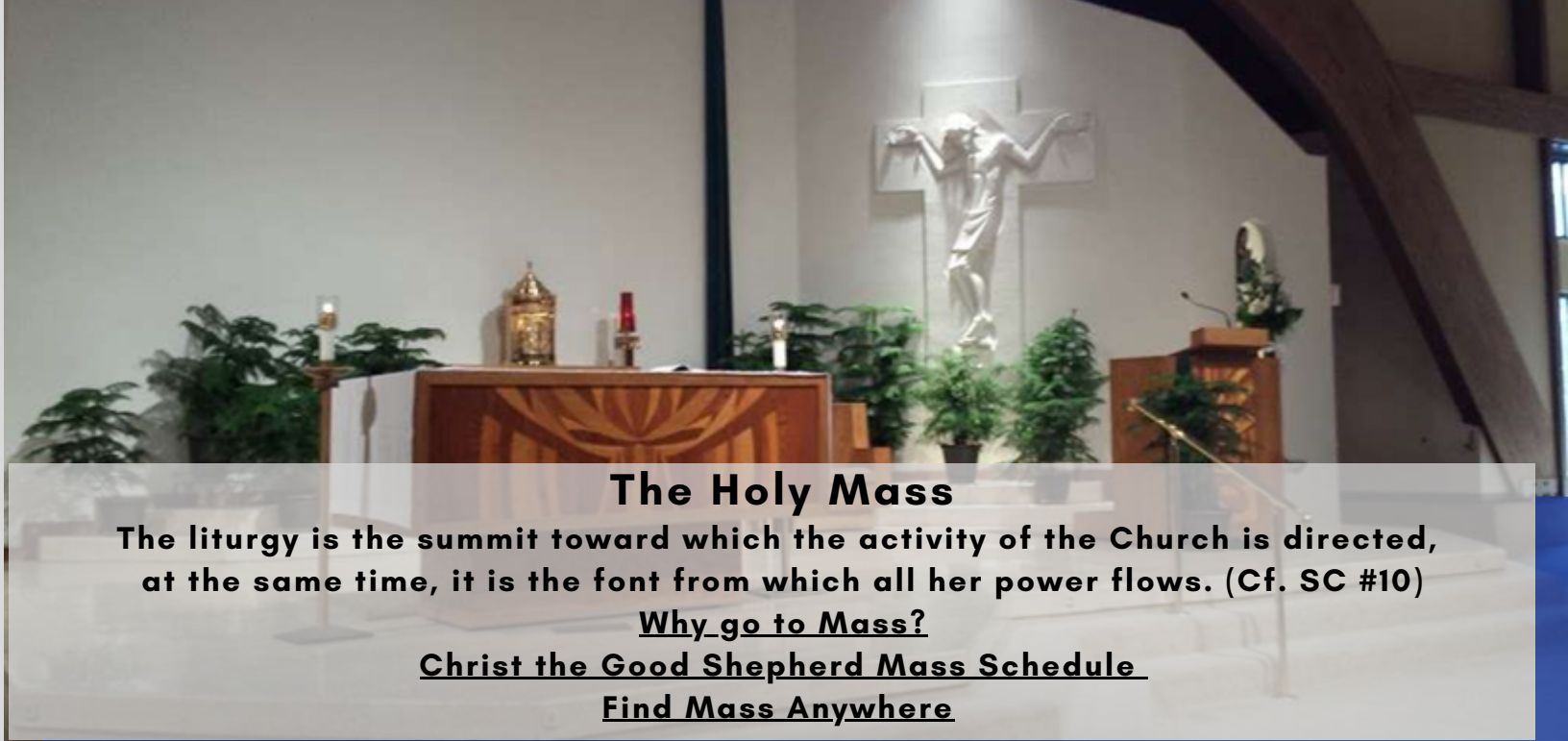
Showing - teaching me how to do what was expected. Grandma taught me how to pray the Rosary and the Stations; Dad the holiness of faithfulness and the importance of Adoration; Mom that love is a selfless choice; and each one the importance of fidelity. They walked with me as I learned.

Sanctifying - each binding me to the sacred. Many of us have lost or have never known a sense of the sacred. That all the trials of this life, the joys, the success and the failures must be tied to the sacred when you are a disciple of Christ. After all, God himself breathed life into us. Is there anything more sacred?

This is who and how I was brought to faith, hopefully I can pass this on to others. Will you do the same?

Anna Spalding

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.

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

readings and podcasts, Year A

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)

First Reading: 2 Kings 4: 8-11, 14-16

Psalm 89: 2-3, 16-17, 18-19

Second Reading: Romans 6: 3-4, 8-11

Gospel: Matthew 10: 37-42

**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

Who helped you come to faith?

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 been touched by the sacred?
Did you share about the experience with someone else or did you keep it to yourself?



WHAT IS THE CHURCH'S TEACHING?

POINTS OF UNDERSTANDING

Where they come from and ways to use them.



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

In the HOLY SCRIPTURE we read:

- The Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth. John 16:12-14
- All Scripture is useful for teaching. 2 Timothy 3:16
- God chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and you are to hold fast to what you were taught. 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17

In the Catechism of the Catholic Church

- Truth as uprightness in human action and speech is called truthfulness #2468
- We must turn to the witnesses of faith. #165
- God has willed to make men holy and save them #781

Excerpt from: Bishop Richard J. Sklba // The Gift and the Blessing of Table Talk -- Article

(T)he realization that a unique element in the spirituality of the Pharisees of ancient Judaism was their conviction that the family table actually shared the sacredness of Temple sacrifice. As a devout member of that group, Jesus the Pharisee, in the Hillel tradition, was convinced that such conversations were often moments of grace and growth, certainly for his chosen Apostles and friends.

When some others in the Pharisaic movement complained at times that he ate with sinners (Luke 15:2), Jesus insisted that those discussions were occasions for a change in thinking and conversion among all gathered at table.

The teaching of Jesus, in his words, but also in his persistent actions, thus makes a point of seeing the Eucharist as a sacred meal — and all meals as somehow sacred, together with all the discussions which occurred at table.

Discuss

1. When has someone loved you enough to tell you the truth? How did that make you feel?
2. How has another person's life changed because of Christ at work in you?
3. What did you hold as sacred as a child? Do you still consider it sacred or has something replaced it?

Want more? Go Deeper!

[Keys to Sharing Faith](#)

Reflection Question

How can you honor the sacred more in your life? Do you need to start doing something to include the sacred, or do you need to stop doing something to honor the sacred?

Faced with the
sacredness of life and of
the human person, and
before the marvels of the
universe, wonder is the
only appropriate attitude.

Pope St. John Paul II



CONNECT with OTHERS...

Living the Gospel with commitment & action.

How can I share, show and sanctify my life so I can help others come to faith?

Practical Activities



For the Individual

Share your Faith Story

Your walk with Jesus may be what helps others come to faith or help someone with a similar struggle. Please share it with us so we can each help others. We will gather stories together in a collection. Please send your story to discipleship@cgscs.church.



For Couples

Date Night With Jesus

Having a godly marriage takes work. Show how committed you and your spouse are to the sacredness your marriage and each other by spending one hour together with Jesus at Adoration. If your schedules do not allow the two of you to go to the church, create a special space in your home and spend an hour in prayer together with Jesus.



For the Domestic Church

Blessings

When we begin our traditional Grace Before Meals Prayer, the first thing we say is "Bless us O Lord..." This week before you eat your meal, let us be more intentional with this pray. Let each one at the table ask God for specific blessing for your domestic churches.



Missionary Mindset

Teach Someone the Rosary

Most non-Catholics think that saying the Rosary is a mindless set of rote prayers. Take the time to share with someone how the Rosary is a mediation on the life of Christ.

You may want to use the flyer [How to Pray the Rosary](#).



Where Spouses Discover God's Plan for Their Family

Together in Holiness is a marriage conference series for dioceses that inspires spouses to grow together in holiness and empowers parents to form their children in the Catholic faith. To learn more about the *Together in Holiness* marriage enrichment initiative, [click here](#).

SEPTEMBER 23, 2023 | 10:30 AM - 6:00 PM

[Learn more about this conference and register.](#)



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 of the Family through the Intercession of Saint Anthony

O God, good and merciful Father, you who chose Anthony as a witness of the Gospel and messenger of peace in the midst of your people, hear the prayer we address to you through his intercession.

Sanctify every family, help them grow in faith; preserve them in unity, peace and serenity. Bless our children, protect our young people. Support those who are being tried by illness, suffering and loneliness. Support us in life's every day hardships, and giving us your love.

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?

Who helped you come to faith?

WE ARE THE CHURCH

What Makes us Catholic? Sanctifying Grace

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (#200) defines sanctifying grace as a habitual supernatural gift that “perfects the soul itself enabling it to live with God” and to “act by his love.” It’s the grace that justifies or saves us. What the Catechism means by “habitual” is that the gift is stable and permanent—that is, on condition one doesn’t forfeit the gift by committing a mortal sin. Sanctifying grace is distinguished from actual grace, which the Catechism identifies as “God’s interventions, whether at the beginning of conversion or in the course of the work of sanctification.”

So, in short, sanctifying grace is God’s permanent gift residing in the soul that properly disposes us to love God and neighbor, and actual grace is God’s temporary interventions that prompts us to collaborate with him as we continue to grow in holiness.



Word of the Week - Sanctification

Being made holy. The first sanctification takes place at baptism, by which the love of God is infused by the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:5). Newly baptized persons are holy because the Holy Trinity begins to dwell in their souls, and they are pleasing to God. The second sanctification is a lifelong process in which a person already in the state of grace grows in the possession of grace and in likeness to God by faithfully corresponding with divine inspirations. The third sanctification takes place when a person enters heaven and becomes totally and irrevocably united with God in the beatific vision.

Fr. John Hardon's Modern Catholic Dictionary

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

Articles

- Sara and Justin Kraft // [Exercising Spiritual Fatherhood](#)
- Loyola Press // [The Pascal Mystery in Everyday Life](#)
- Jeannie Ewing // [7 Great Ways to Practice Faith in Your Home](#)
- Michele Chronister // [Finding God in the Ordinary](#)

Videos

- Ascension Presents // ["What's So Different About These Christians?" - 3 Evangelization Hacks You Can Use Today](#) -- (6:43)
- Father Mike Schmitz // [4 Essentials for Every Catholic](#) -- (6:23)
- Be Not Afraid Family Hour // [Episode 4: Four Steps to be a Great Catholic Leader](#) -- (1:01:00)

Catholic Apps



Laudate



LBreviary

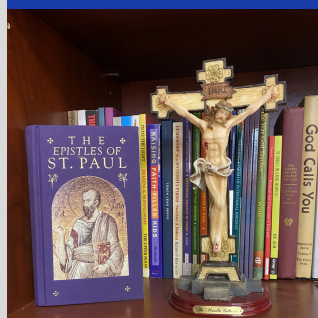


Formed

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

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

Question: Who keeps you accountable for your faith?

- Ascension Presents // True Friendship vs. Toxic Friendship -- video (5:41)
- Ascension Presents // Tips for Praying -- video (8:11)
- Ascension Presents // Fr. Mike's Prayer for Beginners -- video (6:16)
- FOCUS Catholic // What is friendship? -- video (2:31)
- Life Teen // Authentic People -- blog

Characteristics of Adolescents & Parents Roles

Early Adolescence

Adolescence



Adolescence (High School, Grades 9-12)

Question: Who keeps you accountable for your faith?

- Ascension Presents // True Friendship vs. Toxic Friendship -- video (5:41)
- Ascension Presents // Tips for Praying -- video (8:11)
- Ascension Presents // Fr. Mike's Prayer for Beginners -- video (6:16)
- FOCUS Catholic // What is friendship? -- video (2:31)
- Life Teen // Authentic People -- blog



Youth Gather at CGS

Middle school and High school meet every Wednesday 7-8:30pm

FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

Nursery Pages

[Gospel of the Week](#) and
[Activity pages](#) to do with your
Toddler and Pre-schooler

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.

Age-Specific Materials

Pre-order Your Pflaum Gospel Weeklies
jcoba@cgscc.church



Early Childhood Ages 3-5

Characteristics of Young Children

Question: Who taught you to pray?

- Lukas Club // [Prayer I Episode 1](#)--video (12:46)
- Activity: [Prayer Coloring Page](#)



Childhood Elementary, Grades 1-5

Characteristics of Children

Question: Who showed me how to follow Jesus?

- Sophia Institute // [Ready to Use Lesson for Each Sunday](#)
- Brother Francis // [The Saints: Our Heavenly Friends](#)--video (26:48)
- Activity: Sacred Scavenger Hunt - Using sticky notes, look around your home and mark the items or places that remind you of Jesus being in your home.

For Parents



Strong Catholic Family Faith

A project of Strong Catholic Families, Strong Catholic Youth Initiative



Family Faith Practices

**Join a Group of Parents with
Young Children—or start one!**
Inquire at
discipleship@cgscc.church.

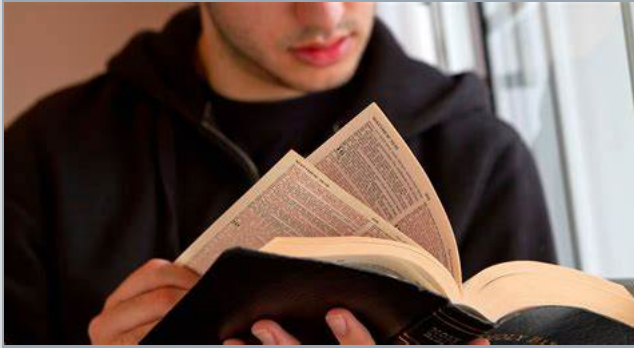
GENERAL RESOURCES

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.

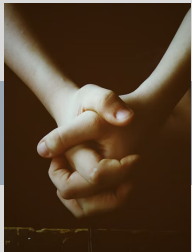
Counseling & Spiritual Direction

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

Powerful Catholic Prayers // Prayers for the Family



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.

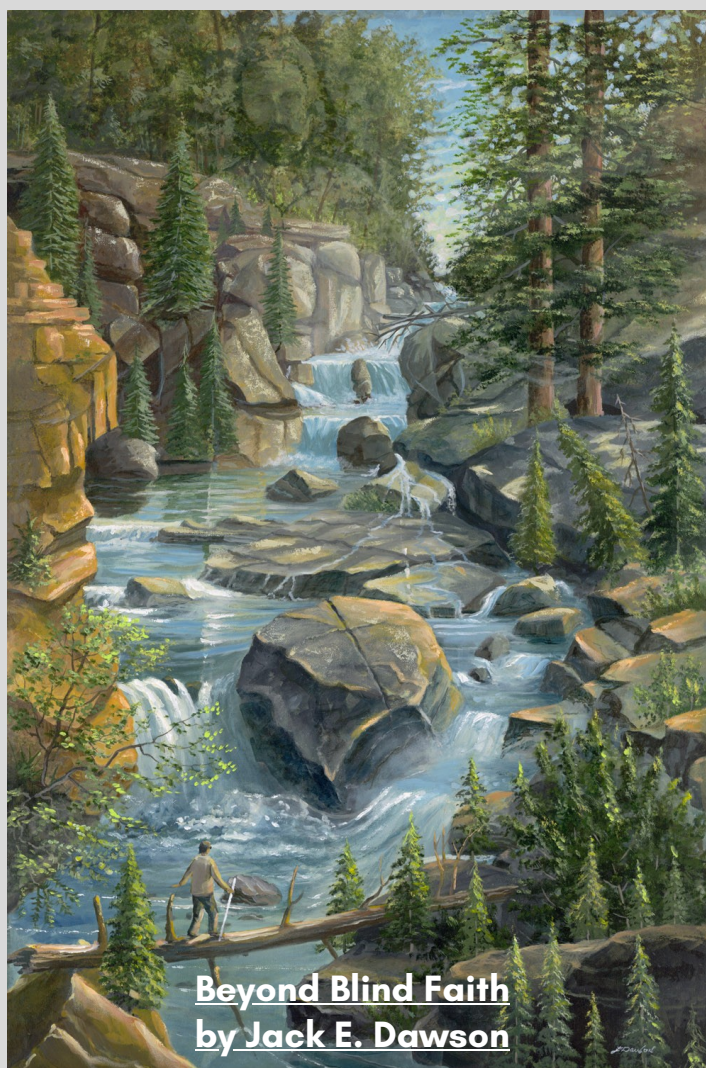
GENERAL RESOURCES

Sacred Art to Inspire You

COVER IMAGE

Ruth Barrera//Corpus Christi Procession, June 10, 2023.

Yongsung Kim // Touch of Faith



Beyond Blind Faith
by Jack E. Dawson

[Click to see the larger image--it's worth it!](#)

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

- Wynonna Judd// Testify to Love --Video (3:08)
- Phillips Craig & Dean// I Want to Be Just Like You -- Video (5:32)
- JJ Heller//A Mother Like You -- Video (3:52)
- Matt Redman//Your Grace Finds Me -- Video (5:40)

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.