

# CGS FAMILY

**SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

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**Volume III, Guide 35, July 23, 2023**



**Where do we find flashes  
of the Kingdom of God in  
our midst?**

**[www.cgsgcc.church](http://www.cgsgcc.church)**





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**All underlined text in  
this Guide is linked!  
Just click!**



**How is this Guide working for you and your household or small group?**

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@cgscchurch.org](mailto:discipleship@cgscchurch.org)**



# Welcome

## 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.



Very Rev. James Burkart  
Pastor



### The good, the bad and the ugly in the Kingdom of Heaven

How many times do we start something such as a personal, family, pastoral or ministerial project, and we do not see "progress" or some kind of fruit? Or even worse, while you are trying to do the work of God, living the best possible way, doing something good, you meet someone who hurts you or one of your loved ones by lying or defaming or even causing physical or psychological damage and you wonder... Why does this or that happen? Why does God allow bad things to happen to good people?

Today we read or hear in the Gospel this passage that begins with the parable of the weeds but then introduces two additional parables: that of the mustard seed and that of the leaven. It then resumes, explains, and closes the initial parable of the weeds.

The parables of St. Matthew's Gospel this Sunday invite us to trust in the process even when we do not see fruits or when things are not advancing or improving. It invites us to not to be discouraged or disappointed in our walk in God's path when we encounter bad or evil things that are against us and can lead us to doubt whether what we are doing is from and for God. The parables of the mustard seed and the leaven present us in contrast an insignificant beginning and the greatness of its development. That is, it doesn't matter how small it seems at the beginning or at the present time or how slow it goes, it is happening and will manifest itself in a total and surprising way.

The first parable presents us with two seeds: one that comes from God and the other that comes from the devil. These two subsist while the Kingdom of God is introduced. It is not for us to judge, but for God himself who at the end, will separate one from the other. The Kingdom of Heaven grows and develops despite any evil in our midst. So, trust, God is in control, even if sometimes it doesn't seem like it.

**Jose 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**

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

**We come to know, love, and serve Jesus Christ.**

**Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**readings and podcasts, Year A - (USCCB)**

**First Reading: Wisdom 12: 13, 16-19**

**Psalms 86: 5-6, 9-10, 15-16**

**Second Reading: Romans 8: 26-27**

**Gospel: Matthew 13: 24-43**



**This Week's Gospel Video by Ivana Meshell**

**Reflecting on the Sunday Readings**

**Sunday Connection**



# WE LEARN & BECOME DISCIPLES TOGETHER

## Getting Started

Why are we doing this?

How to manage a group discussion.

## HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE



## Question of the Week

Where do we find flashes of the Kingdom of God in our midst?

### 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.

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

### CONNECT with our daily LIVES

- What are your family's stories that teach you an important life lesson?





## WHAT IS THE CHURCH'S TEACHING?

### POINTS OF UNDERSTANDING

Where they come from and ways to use them.

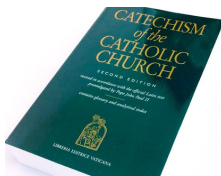


Choose from among the following Scriptures and teachings for reading, prayer, and discussion.



#### **In the HOLY SCRIPTURE we read:**

- God is the only judge. Psalm 96:13
- The Son of Man will judge at the end of times. Matthew 16:27-28
- Mercy triumphs over judgement. James 2:13
- "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." Matthew 12:7



#### **In the Catechism of the Catholic Church**

- The Church: weeds of sin mixed with wheat of the Gospel. #827
- Sin present in human history. #386-387
- How does evil exist? Providence and the scandal of evil. #309-311

#### **In the Mastery of Evil**

*For Almighty God..., because he is supremely good, would never allow any evil whatsoever to exist in his works if he were not so all-powerful and good as to cause good to emerge from evil itself.*

St. Augustine Enchiridion 3, 11: PL 40, 236.

#### **Discuss**

1. How has God been merciful to you?
2. How have you shown mercy to someone in your life?
3. Describe some ways which we can live so that the Kingdom becomes more present in our world through our words and actions.

#### **Go Deeper!**



POPE FRANCIS ANGELUS Saint Peter's Square  
Sunday, 23 July 2017

#### **Reflection Question**

How do I imagine the final Establishment of the Kingdom of God?



## CONNECT with OTHERS...

### Living the Gospel with commitment & action.

What is one thing I am are willing to change in my life so that I can extend the Kingdom of Heaven in my community of faith?

### Practical Activities



*For the Individual*

#### **An Act of Kindness**

This week do a concrete act of kindness for someone who you feel you have not always valued or treated fairly.



*For Couples*

#### **Thank you for being yeast/leaven in my life.**

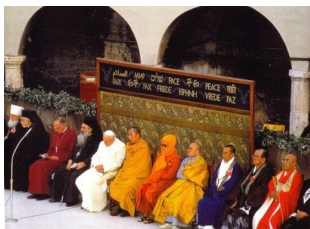
This week take time as a couple to thank each other for the concrete ways and actions in which they have nurtured your life emotionally and spiritually.



*For the Domestic Church*

#### **An Act of Justice**

Brainstorm an act of justice that you want to do this week specially for those rejected or forgotten in our society and then plan to do it together, as a family.



*Missionary Mindset*

#### **Go out to meet others and share**

Search beyond your acquaintances. It can even be among some members of the community who do not profess our faith. Invite them to share their images of the Kingdom of God and their ideas and/or convictions about eternal life.



## Building Your Church at Home

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).



## 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 - Litany for Justice

Leader: For the times in which we have heard your call and have responded with justice,

**All: Your Kingdom come.**

Leader: For the times that we have realized of our own injustices and have changed our hearts,

**All: Your Kingdom come.**

Leader: For the times we have found people who have shown us their love even though we have been ungrateful and unkind,

**All: Your Kingdom come.**

Leader: For the times we have been leaven or good seed for others,

**All: Your Kingdom come.**

**All: God of Love, Lord of Justice, we thank you for the blessing of coming together as family to pray to build your kingdom. Help us to seek your will and your Kingdom always. 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?

**Where do we find flashes of the Kingdom of God in our midst?**



# WE ARE THE CHURCH

## What Makes us Catholic?

**"You cannot build down."**

Venerable Bishop Fulton Sheen

Bishop Fulton Sheen was one of the most popular people on radio and television in the 1950's-1970's, smartly taking advantage of the new medium of television to spread the Word of God. He was entertaining, funny, provocative, and deeply in love with our Lord Jesus Christ. In many ways, he was a prophet: pointing people to the truth--especially the truth within the the context of our own culture and our own times. In this short video, he speaks of the denigration in our society--words he spoke over 50 years ago that could just have well been televised today. May we listen to the wise words of Catholic teachers among us so that we may build and not destroy as we *build up* the Kingdom of God.



## Word of the Week - PARABLES

Parables are a literary resource, or style that makes use of common images, but at the same time surprising ones, which challenge the listener to a constant question about the meaning of the story they tell so that the listener progressively discovers the meaning and central message of the parable.

## Faith Groups at CGS



## Four Reasons Why Faith Groups are Vital

(Video, 2:49)

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

**Ask us how.**

## Saints of the Month

by Jeremy Hearne



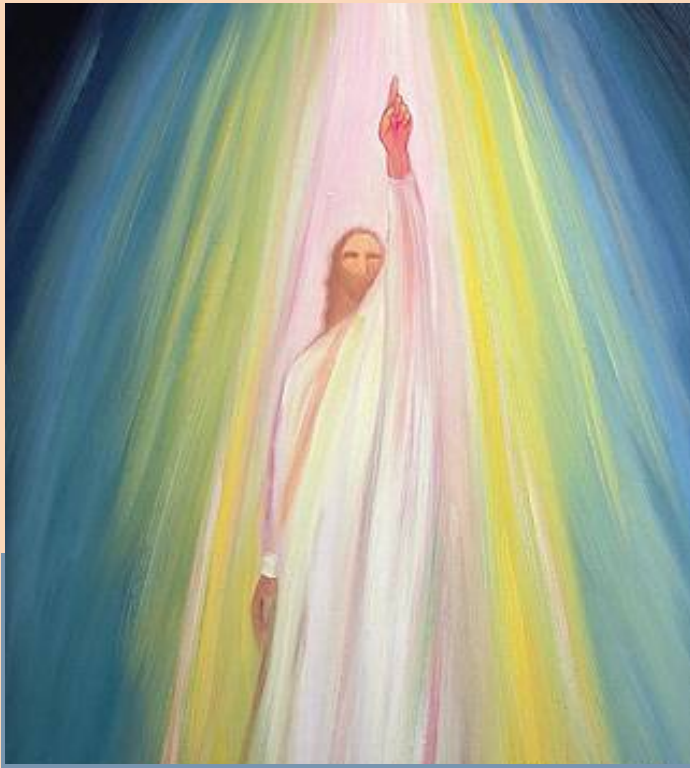
Podcast each Tuesday!

## 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



## Jesus Christ Points us to God the Father

Oil on Panel  
by Elizabeth Wang  
1995

## Adulthood

### Articles

- Dave Armstrong // "Spiritual" Kingdom of God: Old Testament Precursors
- Pope Francis on *Catholics Striving for Holiness* Commentary on the Parable of the Sower.
- National Catholic Education Commission The Parable of the Sower – Matthew 13:1-9
- Sunday Connection

### Videos

- Reflecting on the Sunday Readings by FORMED.
- Bishop Robert Barron: #AskFrBarron // What is the Kingdom of God? (2:04).
- Catholic Productions // The Weeds and the Wheat Explained (Parable of the Tares)--(7:25)
- Fr. Scott Bailey at Risen Christ Catholic Parish Denver // Why is the Sower of the Seed So Bad at Gardening?--(6:04).

**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.

## **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!



# FAMILIES WITH YOUTH



## **Early Adolescence** Jr.High, Grades 6-8

### **Characteristics of Early Adolescents**

#### **Question: What do you think the Kingdom of God is?**

Ascension Presents // [What's a sign from God?](#) -- video (8:48)

Ascension Presents // [How to see God in everything, everyday](#) --video (8:41)

Catechism in a Year // [Day 77: The Kingdom of God](#) -- podcast (17:33)

CatholicLink // [How to Resist Rushing: Wheat and Weeds](#) -- blog



## **Adolescence**

High School, Grades 9-12

### **Characteristics of Adolescents**

#### **Question: What do you think the Kingdom of God is?**

Ascension Presents // [What's a sign from God?](#) -- video (8:48)

Ascension Presents // [How to see God in everything, everyday](#) --video (8:41)

Catechism in a Year // [Day 77: The Kingdom of God](#) -- podcast (17:33)

CatholicLink // [How to Resist Rushing: Wheat and Weeds](#) -- 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

*For families who want more "hands-on" materials.*  
[How to Use the Gospel Weeklies](#)



## Early Childhood Ages 3-5

## Characteristics of Young Children

### **Question: Where do I see Jesus?**

Formed // [Adventure Catechism - Who Is Jesus?](#) -- (7:25)

EWTN// [The Friar - The Sower](#) -- video (29:46)



## Childhood Elementary, Grades 1-5

## Characteristics of Children

### **Question: Where can I find Jesus in my life?**

Formed // [Christine in Action - Gospel Means Good News](#) -- video (1:10)

[Parable of the Sower Animation - Matthew 13:1-23](#) -- (Video 2:53)

Sophia Institute // [Ready to Use Lesson for Each Sunday](#)

## For Parents



## Strong Catholic Family Faith

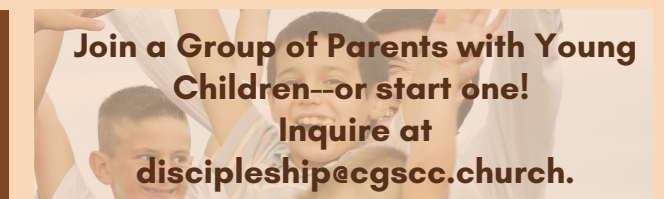
A project of Strong Catholic Families, Strong Catholic Youth Initiative



## Family Faith Practices

**Join a Group of Parents with Young  
Children--or start one!**

**Inquire at  
[discipleship@cgscc.church](mailto: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](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.

## Prayers and Praying

Catholic Online // The Kingdom of the Heavenly Father



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.

# ART & MUSIC

## Sacred Art on Formed

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

[Formed.org](http://Formed.org)



## Using Sacred Art to Bring the Faith Alive

[Sophia Institute](http://Sophia Institute)



### The Sower

by Vincent Van Gogh  
Oil on Canvas, 1888

## Sacred Art to Inspire You

- Daniel Bonnell // [Such is the Kingdom of God](#)
- Edward Hicks // [The Peaceable Kingdom](#)
- Megan Rieker // [Forsake All and Seek Ye the Kingdom of God.](#)
- Venerable Bishop Fulton Sheen [Jesus vs. the Devil - Greatest Christian Speeches of All Time](#)

## Music to Move You

- Dan Feiten // [Seed, Scattered and Sown](#) | [Catholic Hymn](#) | [Parable of the Sower](#)--(5:08)
- Maranatha! Music // [Seek Ye First](#) --(3:04)

### The Sower

The English School, 19th Centry



In what ways do art and music help strengthen your relationship with God? Tell us!  
[discipleship@cgscs.church](mailto:discipleship@cgscs.church)



## Meet Your Evangelization & Discipleship Staff

Helping Others to Know and Love Jesus Christ



**Ivana Meshell**

Director of Evangelization & Discipleship  
281-376-6831 \* [imeshell@cgscc.church](mailto:imeshell@cgscc.church)



**Jose Juan Valdez**

Associate Director  
Adult & Family Evangelization & Discipleship  
281-376-6831 \* [jvaldez@cgscc.church](mailto:jvaldez@cgscc.church)



**Dawn Leal**

Associate Director  
Families with Elementary-Age Children  
346-236-6462 \* [dleal@cgscc.church](mailto:dleal@cgscc.church)



**Ruth Barrera**

Co-coordinator  
High School Youth Ministry  
346-236-6464 \* [rbarrera@cgscc.church](mailto:rbarrera@cgscc.church)



**Brandon Riojas**

Co-coordinator  
Middle School Youth Ministry  
346-236-6464 \* [briojas@cgscc.church](mailto:briojas@cgscc.church)



**Anna Spalding**

Executive Assistant  
Lay Ministry Teams and Faith Groups  
346-236-6444 \* [aspalding@cgscc.church](mailto:aspalding@cgscc.church)



**Jackie Coba**

Evangelization & Discipleship  
Department Assistant  
346-236-6458 \* [jcoba@cgscc.church](mailto:jcoba@cgscc.church)

### The CHURCH EXISTS IN ORDER TO EVANGELIZE

...bringing all  
humanity to  
union with God;  
this is the  
missionary  
mandate  
of the Church.

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*Pope Paul VI in  
"Evangelii Nuntiandi"  
("Evangelization in  
the Modern World"),  
1975.*



**Evangelize with us  
for the glory of God!**

[discipleship@cgscc.church](mailto:discipleship@cgscc.church)

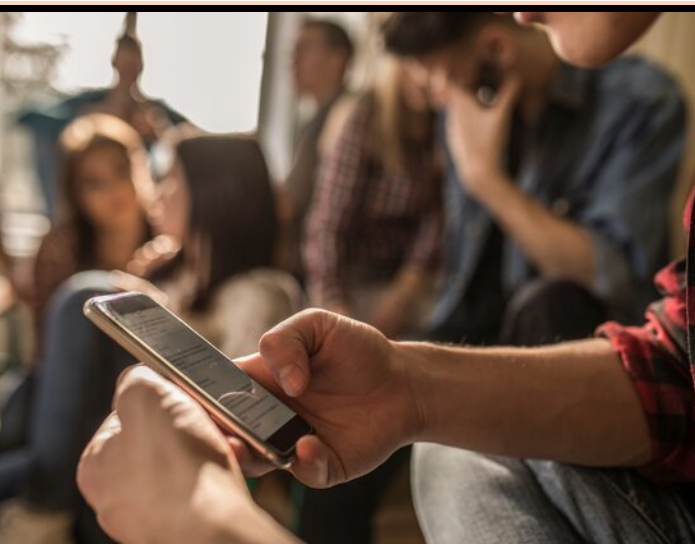


## Our Vision Statement

Building a community of love and hope by putting our faith into action.

These Guides are produced weekly by our Office of Evangelization and Discipleship and are posted on our website each Friday evening: [cgscs.church/cgs-family-guides](http://cgscs.church/cgs-family-guides)

**"HELPING PEOPLE TO KNOW AND LOVE JESUS CHRIST."**



[discipleship@cgscs.church](mailto:discipleship@cgscs.church)



Official Page:

[Christ the Good Shepherd Catholic Church](https://www.facebook.com/ChristtheGoodShepherdCatholicChurch)



@cgsyouth



Join us on Flocknote:

Text CGS to 84576.

You will receive emails & texts from CGS according to your preferences.

18511 Klein Church Rd. Spring, TX 77379

(281) 376-6831 \* [cgscs.church](http://cgscs.church)

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.