

CGS FAMILY

FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

Volume III, Guide 37, August 6, 2023



What is the Church's
role in the world?

www.cgscs.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@cgscc.church

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.



This Week

Heaven Changes Everything

In our Gospel for this week, Jesus takes three of his most loved apostles, Peter, James and John, up to the mountain top. This mountain top, Mount Tabor, carries deep spiritual symbolism, representing a place of revelation, divine presence and a joining of heaven and earth and the apostle experience all of this. Seeing Moses and Elijah conversing with Jesus Christ, the fulfillment of both the prophets and the law; experiencing the answered prayers of Elijah and Moses to see God; witnessing the majesty of Christ, the living Son of God, before his death and resurrection; and the event climaxes with the voice of the Father saying to listen to my beloved Son. No wonder why Peter wanted to erect tents and stay on the mountain top – who wouldn't want to stay in a place where heaven and earth have met. Instead, Jesus leads them down the mountain for, there is much to do and little time to get it done.

We are so lucky; at every Mass we attend heaven and earth are joined together. We hear our salvation history from the prophets and the apostles; we pray with angels and saints in worship of our living God; Jesus becomes present at the altar and feeds us with himself. How much closer to heaven could we be; how much closer could we be to God? A friend of mine, who is of another Christian faith tradition, ask me, "If you believe that Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist, and he is always at the church, how could you leave and not stay at the church with him?" After prayer and reflection, I discovered the answer – we leave because of this Gospel.

At the end of each Mass, we are dismissed to spread the Good News. As Christ' living church, each of us are sent forth to help others know him. As Saint Peter tells us, "(W)e possess the prophetic message that is altogether reliable. You will do well to be attentive to it, as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts." 2 Peter 1:19 We leave because Jesus leads us down the mountain, for there is much to do and little time to get it done.

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

A Message About Mass to the Parents of Young Children

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

Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord

readings and podcasts, Year A

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)

First Reading: Daniel 7: 9-10, 13-14

Psalm 97: 1-2, 5-6, 9

Second Reading: 2 Peter 1: 16-19

Gospel: Matthew 17: 1-9



PAULUS MEDIA & CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC CHURCH

PRESENTS

This Weeks Gospel Message from Jose Juan Valdez
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

What is the Church's role in the world?

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

How has being a member of the Catholic Church affected your life?



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:

- You are a fellow citizen with the holy ones and members of the household of God. Ephesians 2:19-22
- Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. Colossians 3:16
- Go therefore and make disciples of all nations and teach them to observe what I have commanded. Matthew 28: 19-20

In the Catechism of the Catholic Church

- Christ is always present in his Church, especially in her liturgical celebrations. #1088
- The Church -instituted and endowed by Christ Jesus to share in Christ's mission. #763-766
- Moses and Elijah: finding God in varied ways, now they see the unveiled face of Christ #2583

(D)earest sons and brothers, we must think of human society as being primarily a spiritual reality. By its means enlightened men can share their knowledge of the truth, can claim their rights and fulfill their duties, receive encouragement in their aspirations for the goods of the spirit, share their enjoyment of all the wholesome pleasures of the world, and strive continually to pass on to others all that is best in themselves and to make their own the spiritual riches of others. It is these spiritual values which exert a guiding influence on culture, economics, social institutions, political movements and forms, laws, and all the other components which go to make up the external community of men and its continual development.

St. Pope John XXIII // Pacem In Terris #36

Discuss

1. How is the moment of Transfiguration a new awareness? Why does this new awareness demand that we change?
2. St. Pope John XXIII says that "we must think of human society as being primarily a spiritual reality." What can I do in my life to shift my thinking from earthly reality to spiritual reality?
3. What can I do to become more enlightened by the truth?

Want more? Go Deeper!



7 Themes of Catholic Social Teaching

Reflection Question

How can I strive to be transformed by the truth and strive to continually pass on to others all that is best in themselves?



CONNECT with OTHERS...

Living the Gospel with commitment & action.

How can I help bring God's spiritual values to the my life, home and community?

Practical Activities



For the Individual

Enjoyment of the wholesome pleasures of the world

This week take the time to meditate on a scripture passage while in nature. This could be as simple as having tea or coffee on your back porch as you pray with a scripture passage. Take the time to appreciate the world and the word of God.



For Couples

Receive Encouragement

Every day this week tell your partner one thing that you appreciate about them.

Often times people only make comments on things that they want done or changed but we can encourage each other by taking the time to tell them what we like about them.



For the Domestic Church

Pass on to Others the Best in Themselves

At our baptism we each receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit to help us grow into the person God created us to be. These gifts are: Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety, and Fear of God. This week write each gift on a piece of paper and place them in a box or jar. Every day this week pull a new slip from the box/jar and discuss how you can help others recognize this gift in their life.



Missionary Mindset

School Supply Drive - Encourage Enlightenment of the Truth

It's that time of year again to send our children back to school, and with this comes getting school supplies. We encourage you to donate to our Lady of Guadalupe Back School Supplies Drive. We will be collecting donations until August 6th at 1 pm. Please see our CGS Receptionist Desk for the list of Supplies needed.



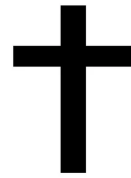
Building Your Church at Home

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 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 for Holiness

**Breathe in me,
O Holy Spirit,
that my thoughts may all be holy.**

**Act in me,
O Holy Spirit,
that my work, too, may be holy.**

**Draw my heart,
O Holy Spirit,
that I love only what is holy.**

**Strengthen me,
O Holy Spirit,
to defend all that is holy.**

**Guard me so,
O Holy Spirit,
that I may always be holy.**

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?

What is the Church's role in the world?

WE ARE THE CHURCH

What Makes us Catholic?

The Mass

The English word "Mass" comes from the Latin word *missa*, which means to be "sent." This Latin word has been used since the 6th or 7th century to describe the Catholic celebration of the Eucharist, our main liturgical service. The word is used during the conclusion of the celebration, when the priest or deacon says in Latin, *Ite, missa est*. The literal translation of that phrase is, "Go, it has been sent." Pope Benedict XVI also expanded on these words in his encyclical *Sacramentum Caritatis*, but focused on a different spiritual meaning behind the phrase. He wrote, "In antiquity, *missa* simply meant 'dismissal.' However in Christian usage it gradually took on a deeper meaning. The word 'dismissal' has come to imply a 'mission.' These few words succinctly express the missionary nature of the Church. The People of God might be helped to understand more clearly this essential dimension of the Church's life, taking the dismissal as a starting- point." (aleteia.org)



Word of the Week - Mandorla

Mandorla, (Italian: "almond"), in religious art, almond-shaped aureole of light surrounding the entire figure of a holy person; it was used in Christian art usually for the figure of Christ. By the 6th century the mandorla had become a standard attribute of Christ in scenes of the Transfiguration, in which Christ shows himself to his Apostles transformed into his celestial appearance.

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

Adulthood

Articles

- Fritz Tuttle// Jesus Christ Established a Visible Church on Earth
- Thomas J. Eggleston// What Pope Francis Means By a Culture of Encounter
- Catholic Stand// The Mass: Heaven on Earth
- Daily Bread// The Role of the Catholic Church in Society

Videos

- Called// Session 3: Called to Holy Orders with Fr. Paul Hoelsing (26:00)
- Living the Catholic Way// The Church (6:13)
- Formed// Opening the Word (4:28)
- Catholicism in Focus// Which Type of Catholic Are You? (8:37)
- Living the Catholic Way // The Holy Mass (6:58)

**"It would be easier for the world
to survive without the sun than to
do so without the Holy Mass."**

— Pio of Pietrelcina

Catholic Apps

FORMED 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 is Church in the Modern World?

- Ascension Press // Why Be Catholic and Not Just Christian?-- video (8:58)
- Ascension Press // Fitting in at Church -- video (6:41)
- Life Teen // Relationship and Religion: why Both are Necessary -- blog
- Life Teen // Church is More Than Sunday Mass -- blog



**"Dear Young People,
the Church depends on you!
She needs your lively faith,
your creative charity, and
the energy of your hope.
Your presence renews,
rejuvenates and gives new
energy to the Church."
Pope Benedict XVI**



Adolescence High School, Grades 9-12

Characteristics of Adolescents

Question: What is Church in the Modern World?

- Ascension Press // Why Be Catholic and Not Just Christian?-- video (8:58)
- Ascension Press // Fitting in at Church -- video (6:41)
- Life Teen // Relationship and Religion: why Both are Necessary -- blog
- Life Teen // Church is More Than Sunday Mass -- 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: How can you share Jesus with others?

Catholic Mom // [Transfiguration Coloring Page](#)

EWTN // [Cat Chat: Celebrating Mary](#) -- video (27:30)



[Childhood](#) [Elementary, Grades 1-5](#)

[Characteristics of Children](#)

Question: How can you share Jesus with others?

Pflaum // [The Transfiguration of the Lord Gospel Reflection and Saint Spotlight](#) -- video (4:57)

The Kid's Bulletin // [Transfiguration](#)

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@cgsc.org

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

USCCB//Prayers for the Church and the World



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



Using Sacred Art to Bring the Faith Alive

[Sophia Institute](http://SophiaInstitute.org)



Sacred Art to Inspire You

COVER IMAG

[USEUM](#) - Jason Polintan// The Transfiguration -- painting

On this page

Raphael // painting in St. Peter's Basilica

Read about this painting:

[Inside the Vatican Magazine Pilgrimage// The Transfiguration Painting](#)

Music to Move You

- Big Daddy Weave// [Heaven Changes Everything](#)-- Video (3:36)
- Tauren Wells// [When We Pray](#)-- Video (3:41)
- Kari Jobe// [The Cause of Christ](#) -- Video (4:57)
- Fr. David Michael Moses// [What Heaven's Like -Concert for Life](#) -- Video (3:15)

In what ways do art and music help strengthen your relationship with God? Tell us!
discipleship@cgscs.church

Meet Your Evangelization & Discipleship Staff

Helping Others to Know and Love Jesus Christ



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The CHURCH EXISTS IN ORDER TO EVANGELIZE

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

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



Evangelize with us for the glory of God!

discipleship@cgscc.church

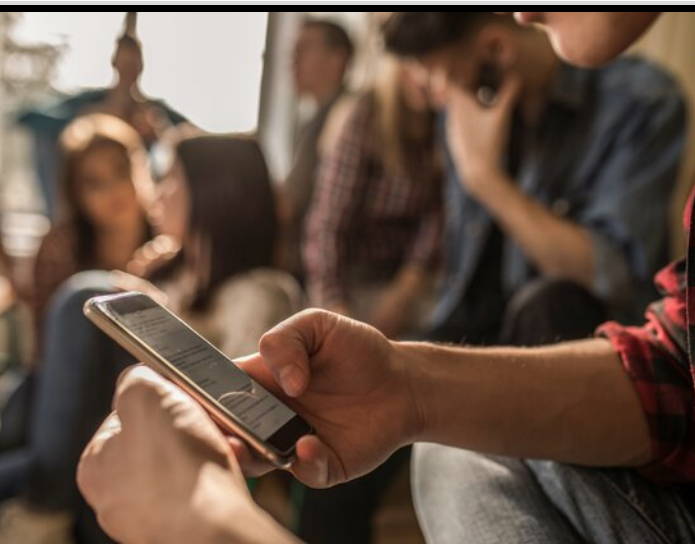


Our Vision Statement

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: cgscscc.church/cgs-family-guides

"HELPING PEOPLE TO KNOW AND LOVE JESUS CHRIST."



discipleship@cgscscc.church



Official Page:

[Christ the Good Shepherd Catholic Church](#)



@cgsyouth



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.