

CGS FAMILY

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Volume III, Guide 44, September 24, 2023

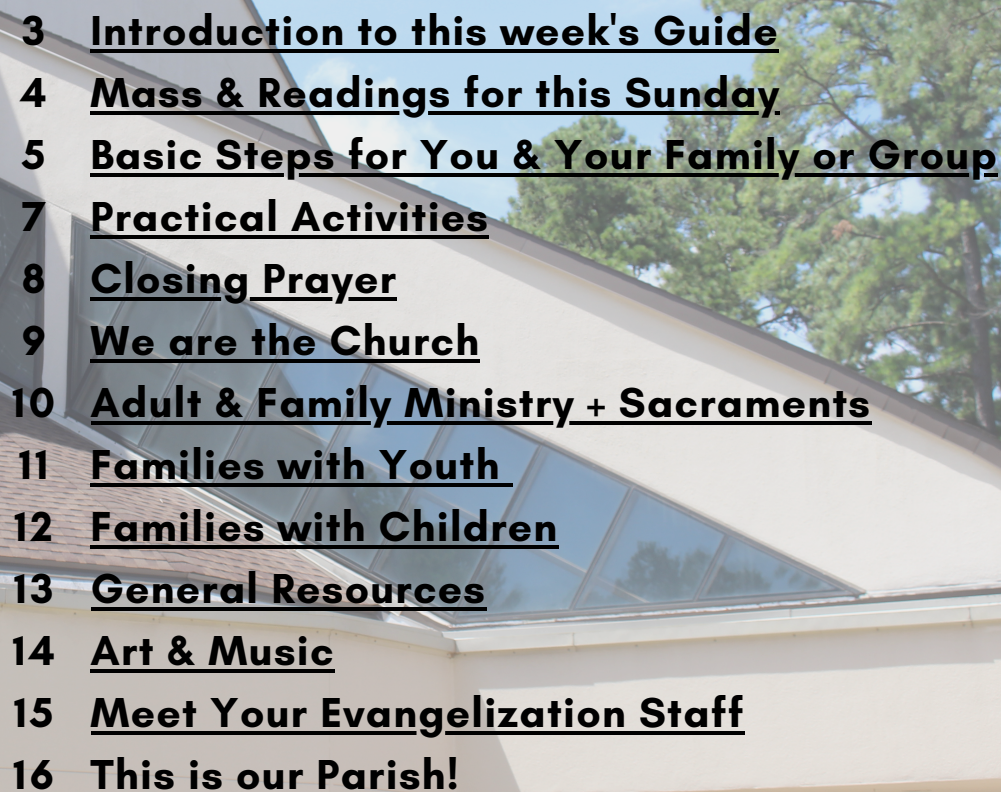


**In what ways can I be less envious
and more generous like Jesus?**

www.cgscchurch.org



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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.



Very Rev. James Burkart
Pastor



This Week

By What Measure?

This week's Guide is on the subject of Envy. It is known as one of the "seven deadly sins"--and for good reason. Envy is a judgement that others do not deserve something good, and if they receive it, this is unacceptable, because through envy I perceive another's success is somehow damaging to me. In other words, if I can't have it, no one should have it. Envy is incredibly self-centered, quite the opposite of extending oneself in unselfish, self-sacrificing love. Envy is the enemy of mercy, which is one of the greatest characteristics of God. Mercy gives what is undeserved; envy cannot tolerate such a lavish gift of unmerited goodness. Underneath envy is the fear that we are not loved and provided for as much as we need. Envy is a product of lack of faith, lack of trust, lack of generosity, and a lack of gratitude, and perhaps a lack of understanding what constitutes our own true worth.

When others get more than I get and even deserve it less (in my opinion) how does that make me feel? By what measure do I decide what I deserve or what others deserve? These are important questions, because Jesus assures us that the measure by which we measure will be measured back to us (see Matthew 7:2). These comparisons point us to what we value and affect every decision and choice we make each day.

The presence of envy (or any of the other capital sins) is a dire warning sign. It indicates that something is significantly wrong in our spiritual life, and it needs to be addressed before it does great harm to ourselves and to others. Through God's grace, any sin can be overcome; but first we must admit that there is a problem and be willing to work on it. There's a way out if we are willing to pursue it. For example, envy makes us very preoccupied with ourselves, but humility throws the spotlight away from ourselves into concern for the good of others, which is love. In this Guide, let us explore this and other ways to overcome envy and replace it with love.

Ivana T. Meshell

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.

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

readings and podcasts, Year A

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)

First Reading: Isaiah 55: 6-9

Psalms 145: 2-3, 8-9, 17-18

Second Reading: Philippians 1: 20-24, 27

Gospel: Matthew 20: 1-16



FR. DAVID MICHAEL

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY | ORDINARY TIME CYCLE A

Paulus



PAULUS MEDIA & CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC CHURCH

PRESENTS

This Weeks Gospel Message from Fr. David Michael Moses
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

In which ways can I be less envious and more generous like Jesus?

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

Consider a time when you felt unhappy, discontented or resentful because of someone else's possessions, qualities, or something good that happened to another person. What do you think might have caused these feelings?



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:

- Rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, insincerity, envy, and all slander...--[1 Peter 2:1](#)
- For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every foul practice--[James 3:16-18](#)
- I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.--[Galatians 5:19-21](#)

In the Catechism of the Catholic Church

- Envy is a capital sin. It refers to the sadness at the sight of another's goods and the immoderate desire to acquire them for oneself, even unjustly. When it wishes grave harm to a neighbor it is a mortal sin--[#2539](#)
- The baptized person combats envy through good-will, humility, and abandonment to the providence of God.--[#2554](#)

Envy is more than simple jealousy because it includes the belief that another's excellence or blessings lessens one's own, and it makes one want to destroy another's good fortune. As a deadly sin, envy is believed to generate other sins and further immoral behavior. Envy can be countered with the heavenly virtue of gratitude as well as generosity. [LEARN MORE](#)

Discuss: Three Ways to Overcome Envy

1. One of the most effective ways to overcome envy is to practice gratitude. When we focus on the blessings in our own lives, we are less likely to envy what others have. **How can we practice gratitude?**
2. It is important to remember that God has a plan for our lives and that he will provide for our needs. When we trust in God's plan, we are less likely to be envious of others. **How can we trust God more?**
3. Comparing ourselves to others is a surefire way to fuel envy. Instead, focus on your own journey and trust that God has a plan for you. **How can we avoid comparing ourselves to others?**

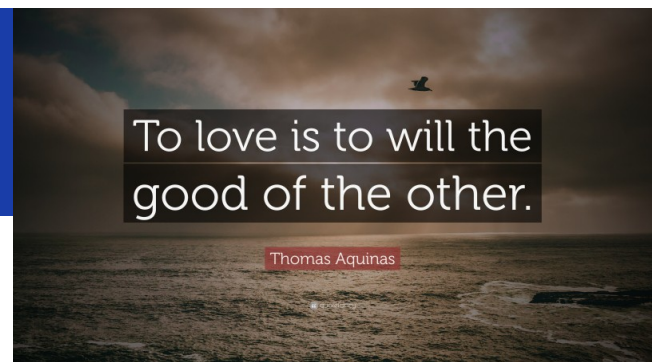
Want more? Go Deeper!

[Overcoming Envy](#)



Reflection Question

One of the best ways to overcome any kind of evil is to "conquer evil with good" (Romans 12:21). Do I spend more time thinking about how I can get more rather than thinking about how I can give away what I have?



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 am less envious and more generous and grateful?

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

love,
joy,
peace,
patience,
kindness,
goodness,
faithfulness,
gentleness,
and self-control

Galatians 5:22-23

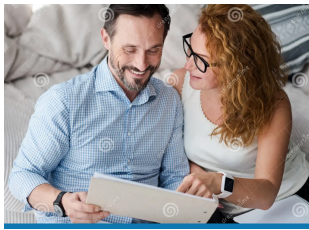


Practical Activities

For the Individual

Make a "Trigger List"

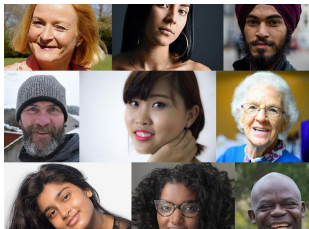
Make a list of the things, people and circumstances that trigger your envy. It's important that you recognize these switches so that you can understand where it all starts and what to do when it starts. Do you feel envious of your friends who found the love of their life without even trying? Don't you feel happy about your classmate's perfect score for the finals? Look to where it started and learn from it.



For Couples

Ditch Envy for Good!

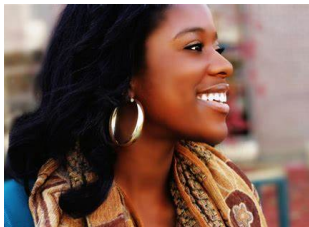
Envy can be especially destructive in couple's relationships. Look again at the discussion questions on page 6. Discuss them alone with just your partner. Focus especially on ways to cultivate gratitude, trust, and not comparing yourself to others.



For the Domestic Church

Recognize the Uniqueness of Each Person

One of envy's triggers is comparing oneself to others; yet everyone is different, and each is on his or her own unique path in life. Rejoice in one another's successes; encourage the good you see in one another, especially in young people who are still discovering their gifts and goodness. Cultivate a healthy sense of self-worth among each member of your household, and avoid unproductive self-pity.



Missionary Mindset

Your Life Isn't About You

Envy can sometimes arise from an over-focus on oneself. Acts of service, helpfulness, mercy, charity and love take the focus from ourselves to others, resulting in fewer instances of discontent, feeling sorry for oneself, depression, and many other ill of the mind. Your life is not about you. We find meaning in giving ourselves away. Need a way to focus on others? Contact us! discipleship@cgsc.org



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

**My Lord Jesus,
I repent of all my sins, especially the sin of envy. I want no part of this anymore.**

When I let jealous thoughts grow and I find myself running after the things others have that I want, I end up letting discontentment tell me that I need more than I have and that I can't let others get ahead of me.

**Envy wants to be elite—
But you left your place at the table to wash your disciples' feet as a servant.**

**Envy wants to be affluent—
But you taught that we should give all we have to the poor and build up treasure in heaven.**

**Envy wants to be known and admired by others—
But you cared nothing for your reputation, regularly socializing with people who were viewed as society's outcasts and rejects.**

Remove from me all unhealthy craving for success, notoriety, appearance, and possessions so that I may hear your voice in my life instead of listening to the desire to always have more and be better than others. May my desire for success, wealth, and recognition never be greater than my desire for a life close with you. 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?

In which ways can I be less envious and more generous like Jesus?

WE ARE THE CHURCH

What Makes us Catholic?

Envy is Dangerous

But by the envy of the devil, death entered the world,
and they who are allied with him experience it.

Wisdom 2:24

We need to take this seriously. When you and I give in to envy, we are aligning our interior selves with the posture of the devil against God and all those whom God loves. This is why envy is not to be taken lightly. It must be recognized and fought against with God's grace. Considering that the current fallen state of the created world is not the result of lying, stealing or murder, but envy, that should give us at least a moment's pause when we discover it in our lives.



Word of the Week - Envy

According to St. Thomas Aquinas, envy is "an irrational anger at the success of others." Envy is a feeling of discontent or resentfulness because of someone else's possessions, qualities, or anything good that happens to him or her. The opposite of envy is generosity. Being thankful for what we have and willing to share with others is a good antidote to envy. As we look to be generous with our time, our talents, and our material wealth, we will become less concerned about what we don't have and more concerned about what others truly need.

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

- Fr. Paul D. Scalia // Envy or Generosity?
- Steven Whitmer *Desiring God* // Seven Strategies for Fighting Envy
- National Catholic Register // The 10th Commandment Gives Fair Warning About Envy
- Fr. Peter John Cameron, O.P. // Envy – The Adversary of Mercy
- Fr Robert McTeigue, SJ on Aleteia // Why Envy Comes to Us from Hell and Why the Devils Choose it Right After Pride

Videos

- **Formed//Opening the Word -**
Reflection on this week's Gospel Reading
- Bishop Robert Barron // Envy Will Destroy Us

Podcast

Ask Fr. Josh // Envy: It's More Than Jealousy



Catholic Apps



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: How do I show generosity everyday?

Grades 5 & 6: "Venture" by Pflaum Publishing

Grades 7 & 8: "Visions" by Pflaum Publishing

Ascension Presents // Generosity the Greatest Spiritual Gift -- video (5:09)

Ascension Presents // How the Devil Twists God's Gifts -- video (8:57)

Ascension Presents // Inspiration to Stop Complaining -- video (5:39)

Ascension Presents // The Difference Between Envy and Jealousy -- video (7:11)

"Never measure your generosity by
what you give, but rather by what
you have left."

-Archbishop Fulton Sheen



Adolescence High School, Grades 9-12

Characteristics of Adolescents

Question: How do I show generosity everyday?

Ascension Presents // Generosity the Greatest Spiritual Gift -- video (5:09)

Ascension Presents // How the Devil Twists God's Gifts -- video (8:57)

Ascension Presents // Inspiration to Stop Complaining -- video (5:39)

Ascension Presents // The Difference Between Envy and Jealousy -- video (7:11)



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

Question: Insert

"Seeds" by Pflaum Publishing

EWTN Kids // [Cat Chat: Generosity](#) -- video (25:19)

The Kid's Bulletin // [September 24, 2023](#)

[Characteristics of Young Children](#)



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

Question: Insert

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](#)

EWTN Kids // [Cat Chat: Generosity](#) -- video (25:19)

The Kid's Bulletin // [September 24, 2023](#)

[Characteristics of Children](#)

For Parents



[Strong Catholic Family Faith](#)

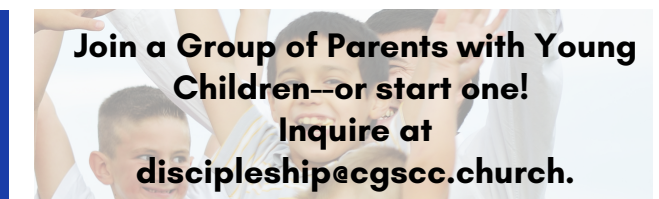
A project of Strong Catholic Families, Strong Catholic Youth Initiative



[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

Catholic Prayers and Devotions from EWTN



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](https://formed.org)



Using Sacred Art to Bring the Faith Alive

[Sophia Institute](https://sophia-institute.org)

Sacred Art to Inspire You

Edvard Munch // [Envy](#), Oil on Canva, Norway, 1895
Alkanett // [Envy](#).

Music to Move You

Vintage Music // [Generous Giver](#)

Generosity

Yasir Eryilmaz



Want More Music? Join us on Sunday evenings!

Bring your friends and family, young and old for a fulfilling, prayerful experience to complete your Sunday, provided by renowned musician, singer, and composer Auggie Leal! Our upbeat, sing-along music is from 6:00-6:30 and we move into more soothing, meditative music from 6:30-7:00 as Adoration begins. Come, together let us praise the Lord.

Kit Miracle **Generosity**



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

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



Jose Juan Valdez

Associate Director
Adult & Family Evangelization & Discipleship
281-376-6831 * jvaldezcgscscc.church



Dawn Leal

Associate Director
Families with Elementary-Age Children
346-236-6462 * dleal@cgscc.church



Ruth Barrera

Co-coordinator
High School Youth Ministry
346-236-6464 * rbarrera@cgscc.church



Brandon Riojas

Co-coordinator
Middle School Youth Ministry
346-236-6464 * briojas@cgscc.church



Anna Spalding

Executive Assistant
Lay Ministry Teams and Faith Groups
346-236-6444 * aspalding@cgscc.church



Jackie Coba

Evangelization & Discipleship
Department Assistant
346-236-6458 * 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.

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



Evangelize with us for the glory of God!

discipleship@cgscc.church

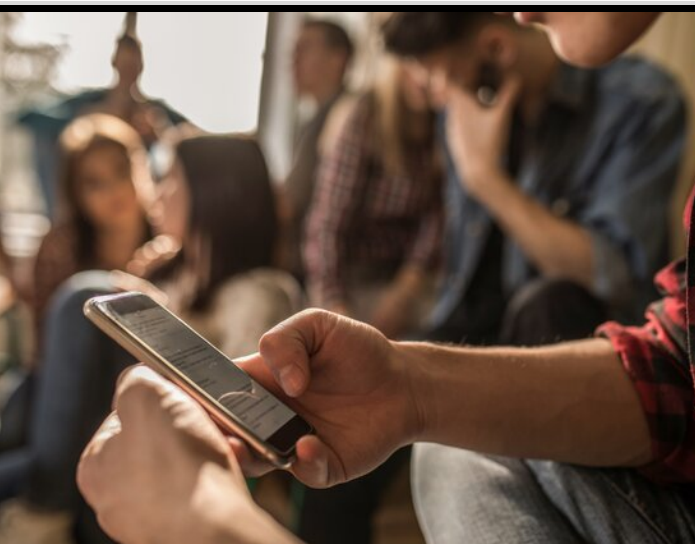


Our Vision Statement

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: cgscs.church/cgs-family-guides

"HELPING PEOPLE TO KNOW AND LOVE JESUS CHRIST."



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

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.