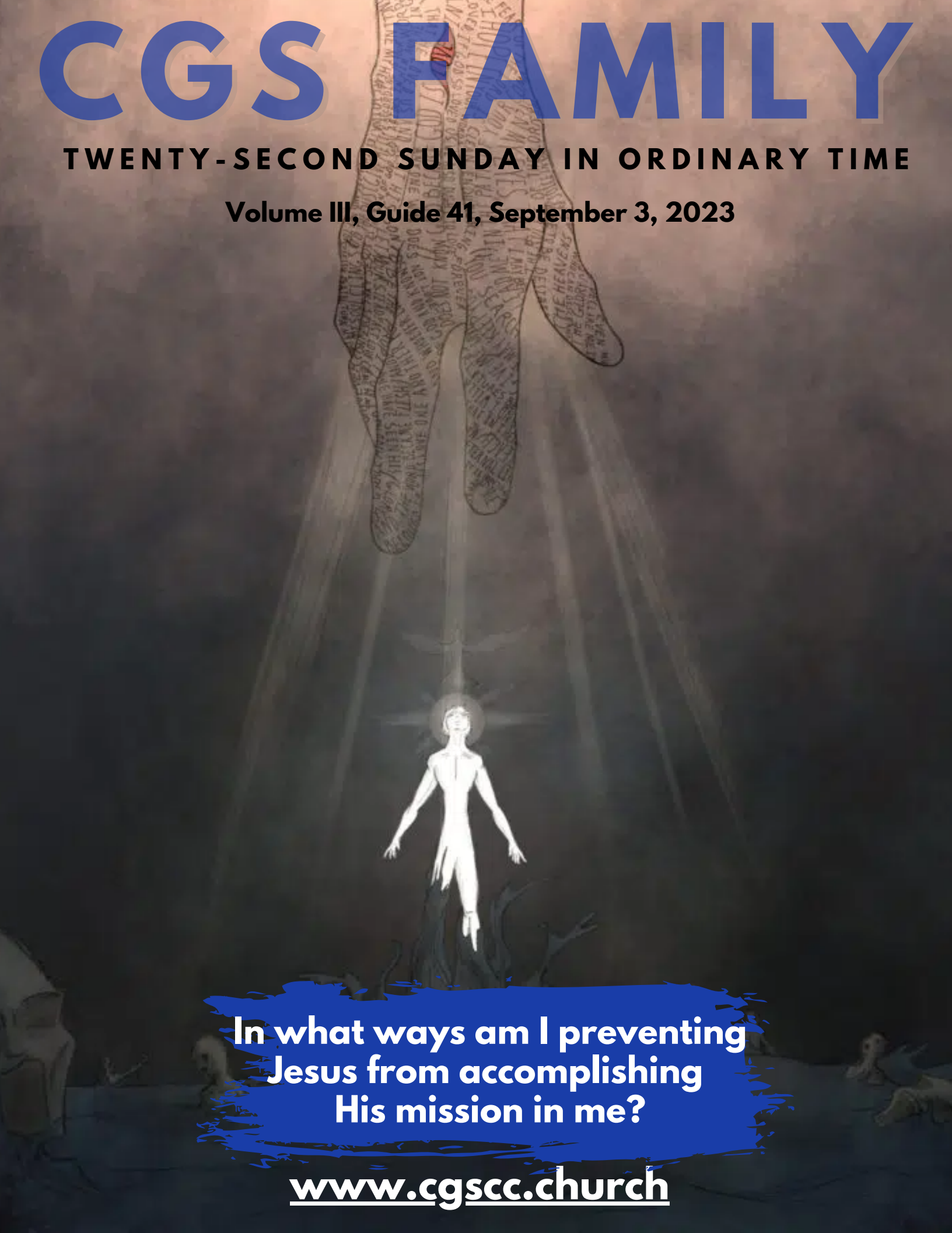


CGS FAMILY



TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

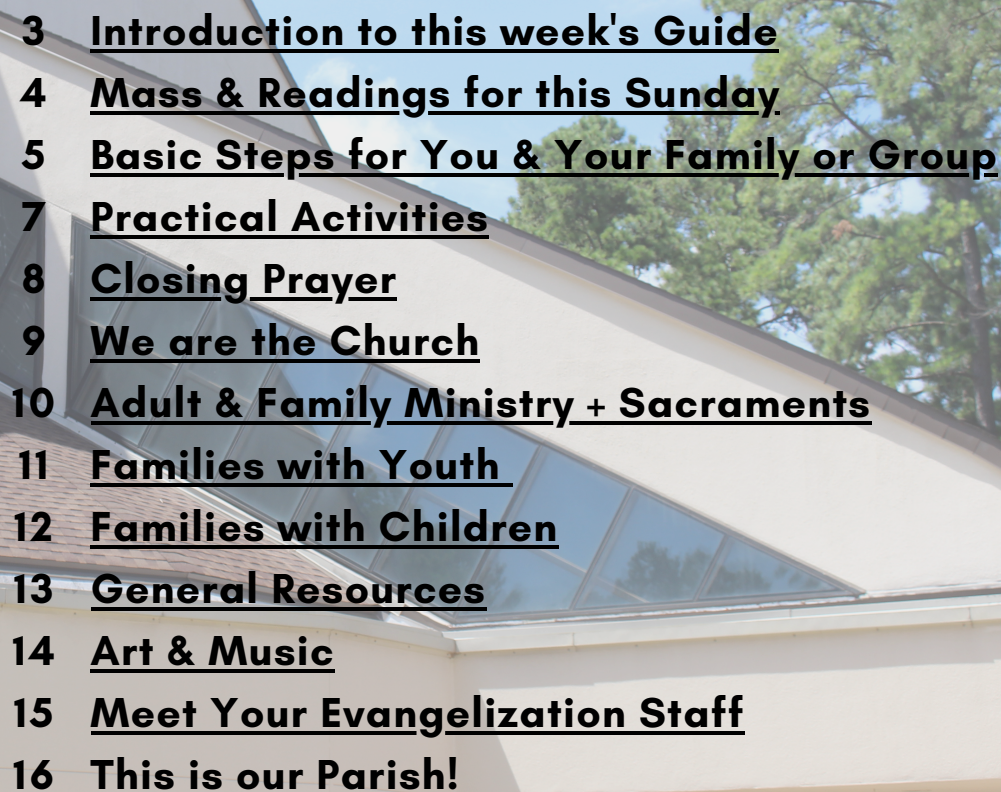
Volume III, Guide 41, September 3, 2023

**In what ways am I preventing
Jesus from accomplishing
His mission in me?**

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@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

Are You a Brave Soul?

This week's Guide is for those brave souls who dare to take a closer look at themselves with honesty about the things that may be keeping them from a closer and deeper relationship with Jesus, and therefore keeping them from a richer and more fulfilling life. Each of us have our own particular faults and struggles, though all of the possible reasons why we haven't yet allowed God to accomplish good in us comes down to some basic root causes: pride, greed, unjust anger, lust, jealousy, laziness, and habitual excess in eating or consuming goods--otherwise known as the "seven deadly sins" that get us into trouble every single time. In Galatians 5:19-21 reads: "Now the works of the flesh are obvious: immorality, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, rivalry, jealousy, resentment, acts of selfishness, dissensions, divisions, occasions of envy, drinking bouts, orgies, and the like." That's quite a list! In contrast, "...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control" (Galatians 5:22). These are they key to human flourishing.

So, brave soul, are we willing to look at ourselves honestly and seek out those ways in which our thoughts and behaviors are preventing Jesus from accomplishing His mission in us? Some examples we might consider (though there are many others):

- What immature ways has Jesus invited me to leave behind?
- How have I failed to forgive others?
- How am I failing to take responsibility for the bad things I have done and the good I ought to do?
- In what ways has God revealed his will to me and how am I rebelling against that in favor of my own preferences?
- What are the biggest time wasters in my life and how are they keeping me from becoming a better, holier person?
- What vices (bad habits) am I clinging to that are causing decay in my soul?

Let's explore together in this CGS FAMILY Guide.

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-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

readings and podcasts, Year A

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)

First Reading: Jeremiah 20:7-9

Psalm 63: 2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9

Second Reading: Romans 12:1-2

Gospel: Matthew 16:21-27



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 what ways am I preventing Jesus from accomplishing His mission in me?

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 obstacles are preventing you from doing Christ's mission? Are these obstacles of your own sin, the sins of others, or simply your own thoughts and reservations? Could it be environmental factors, language barriers, or finances?



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 provides us self-control not cowardice. 2 Timothy 1:7
- Be a slave to obedience, not a slave to sin. Romans 6:16
- Why go back to sin when you know God and He knows you? Galatians 4:9

In the Catechism of the Catholic Church

- There are different types of sin that can hold you back. #1852
- Ultimate mission is to share the communion of God the Father with man. #850
- Jesus calls us to conversion to follow Him and to do His will. #1427

"The Second Vatican Council sought to renew the Church's life and activity in the light of the needs of the contemporary world. The Council emphasized the Church's "missionary nature," basing it in a dynamic way on the Trinitarian mission itself. The missionary thrust therefore belongs to the very nature of the Christian life, and is also the inspiration behind ecumenism: "that they may all be one...so that the world may believe that you have sent me" (Jn 17:21)."

Redemptoris Missio by St. John Paul II

Discuss

1. What do I do that prevents me from doing the mission Jesus has for me?
2. Why do I hold onto these things that prevent me from doing mission?
3. How may I unintentionally or intentionally prevent others from listening to the mission that Christ has for them?

Want more? Go Deeper!

Learn more about seeking greatness over limitations.



Reflection Question

In what ways could I overcome the things that prevent me from doing His mission? Do I even know His mission for me, or have I become blinded by the actions of myself and by others?

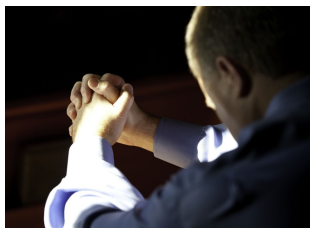


CONNECT with OTHERS...

Living the Gospel with commitment & action.

What is one thing I am willing to change in my life so that I can begin to allow Jesus to do His mission in me and through me?

Practical Activities



For the Individual

Mea Maxima Culpa

Making an Examination of Conscience is a great way to reflect on ways you may be preventing Jesus from working in and through you. It allows you to take a look at your faults not to bring shame, but to bring conversion and hope for a new way of living.



For Couples

Your Mission... My Mission?

This week, share what your mission is. Do you both have the same mission and if so, how do you live that out together or individually? Is your mission to raise your kids in a Christ centered home? Is your mission to bring the light to co-workers? What obstacles prevent you from doing this?



For the Domestic Church

This is Our Mission

In your family, share what your mission is as a family. Is the family mission to visit other relatives, friends, and people to share Christ with them. Is the family mission to bring out the best in each other through accountability? What may be some obstacles you face as a family?



Missionary Mindset

Go Out!

It is said that through acts of service, one can increase in virtue and decrease in vice. Find a service project that will bring you out of your comfort zone. It can be easy as helping a next-door neighbor whom you normally don't talk to.



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.

Pray to be
ever ready
for God's will
even when
it takes you
by surprise.

- Saint Mary MacKillop

MISSIONARIESOFCHRIST.COM

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

Prayer for Grace

O my God and my all,
in Thy goodness and mercy,
grant that before I die
I may regain all the graces
which I have lost through my carelessness and folly.

Permit me to attain the degree of merit and perfection
to which Thou didst desire to lead me,
and which I failed by my unfaithfulness to reach.

Mercifully grant also that others regain the graces
which they have lost through my fault.
This I humbly beg through the merits
of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
and Immaculate Virgin Mary.

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 what ways am I preventing Jesus from accomplishing His mission in me?

WE ARE THE CHURCH

What Makes us Catholic?

Vice vs Virtue

Virtues are those that are essentially good habits that point a person toward goodness. Vices are those that are bad habits that point to evil. As Catholics we are called to a goodness or balance (virtue). We must be careful with vices of excess and vices of deficiency.

Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think of these things.

Philippians 4:8



Word of the Week - Magnanimity

Magnanimity is striving for greatness. It means "greatness of soul." This is where man strives for greatness or excellence even when it is difficult. Man seeks excellence and greatness in which is honorable and can be pointed to God.

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



Christ Crucified

by
Diego Velazquez

Adulthood

Articles

- Catholic Women in Business // [Building Resilience Through the Practice of Virtue](#)
- Inspiration Feed // [The Seven Deadly Sins Explained in Detail](#)
- National Catholic Register // [Looking to Virtue Over Vice](#)
- Catholic Link // [Vice vs Virtue](#)
- Catholic Education // [Building Character: 5 Things Parents Can Do](#)

Videos

- **Formed**//**Opening the Word - Reflection on this week's Gospel Reading**
- The Thomistic Institute // [Vice and Sin](#) -- (6:05)
- The Thomistic Institute // [Virtue](#) -- (7:46)
- Catholic Minute // [How to Teach Children Virtue](#) -- (8:45)
- Knights of Columbus // [What Is Our Identity as Catholics?](#) -- (1:50)
- Called to More // [How to Examine Your Conscience](#) -- (9:56)
- FOCUS // [Take Up Your Cross with Dr. Edward Sri](#) -- (2:27)

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: What is the mission Jesus has for me and how can I allow him to work through me?

Grades 5 & 6: "Venture" by Pflaum Publishing

Grades 7 & 8: "Visions" by Pflaum Publishing

Ascension Presents // God Has a Mission For You -- video (10:53)

Ascension Presents // The Jesus Prayer -- video (6:07)

Ascension Presents // Combat Vice and Grow in Virtue -- video (22:34)

Called to More // 5 steps to Grow in Virtue -- video (8:35)

"He is in you, he is with you and he never abandons you. However far you may wander, he is always there, the Risen One. He calls you and he waits for you to return to him and start over again. When you feel you are growing old out of sorrow, resentment or fear, doubt or failure, he will always be there to restore your strength and your hope."

Excerpt from Christus Vivit



Adolescence High School, Grades 9-12

Characteristics of Adolescents

Question: What is the mission Jesus has for me and how can I allow him to work through me?

Ascension Presents // God Has a Mission For You -- video (10:53)

Ascension Presents // The Jesus Prayer -- video (6:07)

Ascension Presents // Combat Vice and Grow in Virtue -- video (22:34)

Called to More // 5 steps to Grow in Virtue -- video (8:35)



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 I shine for Jesus?
"Seeds" by Pflaum Publishing

FORMED // [Brother Francis: Following in His Footsteps](#) (24:00)

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

[Characteristics of Children](#)



Question: How can I be better at sharing Jesus?

Grades K-1: "Promise" by Pflaum Publishing and

Grades 2,3 &4: "Good News" by Pflaum Publishing

FORMED // [Brother Francis: Following in His Footsteps](#) (24:00)

The Kids Bulletin // September 3, 2023

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

For Parents



[Strong Catholic Family Faith](#)

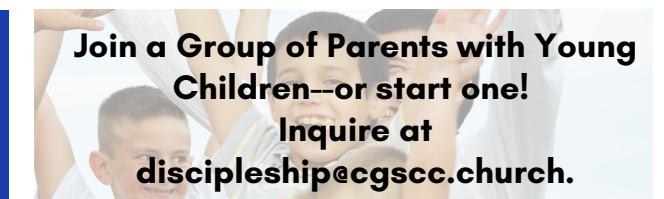
A project of Strong Catholic Families, Strong Catholic Youth Initiative



[Family Faith Practices](#)

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

Inquire at
discipleship@cgscscc.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

USCCB// [Act of Contrition](#) - website

USCCB// [Psalm 51](#) - 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.

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)



Simeon Helps Jesus

by Tais Gea

Music to Move You

Brother Isaiah // Come Follow Me -- music video (5:42)

Luke Spehar // My Cross -- audio (4:36)

Land of Color // Running -- lyric video (3:46)

Casting Crowns // Only Jesus -- music video (3:50)

United Pursuit // Never Going Back -- music video (8:58)

Virtue

by

Howard Lyon



Sacred Art to Inspire You

COVER IMAGE

Full of Eyes // Romans 12:2

Elizabeth Wang // Wherever Christ is, There are His Virtues

The youth of today must remain strong in the face of many challenges. They stand in the middle of a great battlefield, the enemy before them, but they need not fear. God is the armorer and he has forged great protections for this generation.

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

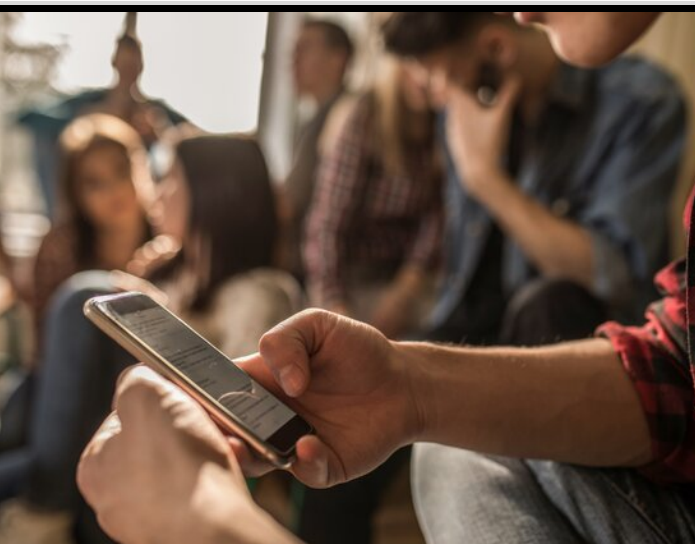


Our Vision Statement

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: cgscs.church/cgs-family-guides

"HELPING PEOPLE TO KNOW AND LOVE JESUS CHRIST."



discipleship@cgscs.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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(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.