

# CGS FAMILY

TWENTY-FOURTHSUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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Volume III, Guide 43, September 17, 2023

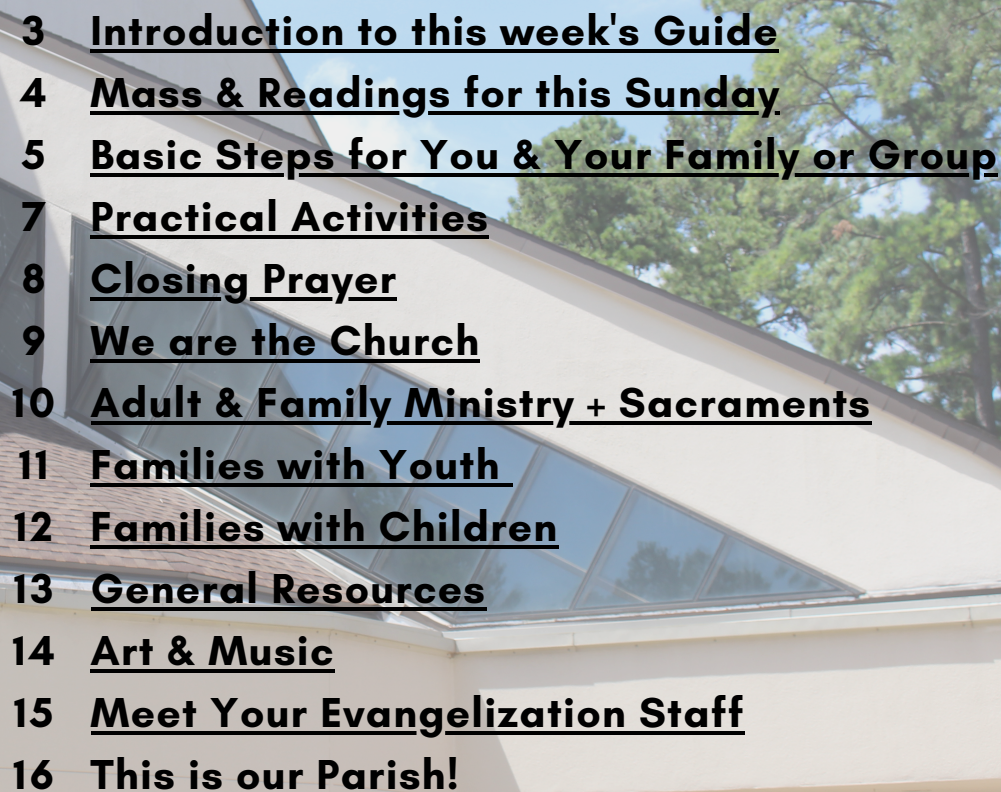


**How can we be kinder  
and more merciful?**

**[www.cgscclchurch](http://www.cgscclchurch)**



# Table of Contents

- 
- 3 **Introduction to this week's Guide**
  - 4 **Mass & Readings for this Sunday**
  - 5 **Basic Steps for You & Your Family or Group**
  - 7 **Practical Activities**
  - 8 **Closing Prayer**
  - 9 **We are the Church**
  - 10 **Adult & Family Ministry + Sacraments**
  - 11 **Families with Youth**
  - 12 **Families with Children**
  - 13 **General Resources**
  - 14 **Art & Music**
  - 15 **Meet Your Evangelization Staff**
  - 16 **This is our Parish!**

**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.

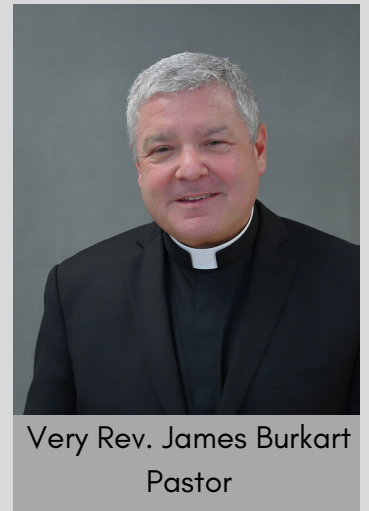
For questions, comments, and feedback, please contact us at

**[discipleship@cgscc.church](mailto: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's Guide

### Virtue of Kindness

The truck driver behind her, after witnessing the traffic lights pass through several cycles, finally decided to take action. He sauntered over to Aunt Tilly's car, leaned his large frame toward her open window, and stated, in as restrained a manner as possible, "Would you be lookin' for a different shade of green, ma'am?"

Kindness is being gentle, thoughtful, helpful, and forgiving at times when it would be so easy to be angry. It also displays the same virtues when the sheer inconvenience of the situation would seem to justify non-involvement. Kindness much prefers considerateness to anger, and leaps enthusiastically over the barriers of inconvenience. **The kind person persists in behaving humanly no matter how irresistibly circumstances may tempt him to behave otherwise.**

...Christians should be ambassadors of kindness. As in Ephesians 4:31: "Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you" and 1 Peter 2:1-3 "So put away all malice and all guile and insincerity and envy and all slander. Like newborn babes, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation; for you have tasted the kindness of the Lord."

A kind word can conquer anger, calm the spirit, and even start a friendship.

Christians should be kind. But kindness is not exclusively Christian. Rather it is as broad and old as humanity. The Greek playwright Sophocles alluded to the naturalness of kindness when he said, "Kindness gives birth to kindness." The Roman emperor Marcus Aurelius understood the personal as well as the social benefits of kindness. "Ask thyself daily," he wrote, "to how many ill-minded persons thou hast shown a kind disposition." Goethe viewed kindness as the "golden chain by which society is bound together."

In this Guide, may we explore together how we might be more closely bound together with the virtues of kindness and mercy.

*From the writings of Dr. Donald DeMarco*

**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-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

readings and podcasts, Year A

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)

First Reading: Sirach 27:30 - 28:7

Psalms 103: 1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12

Second Reading: Romans 14: 7-9

Gospel: Matthew 18: 21-35



PAULUS MEDIA & CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC CHURCH

PRESENTS

**This Weeks Gospel Message from Dawn Leal**

**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

How can we be kinder and more merciful?

### 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 is one way someone has been kind to you?

How do you feel when others show you mercy?



## 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 have been told...what the LORD requires of you: do justice and to love goodness--Micah 6:8
- But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.'--Matthew 9:13
- Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful--Luke 6:36

#### In the Catechism of the Catholic Church

- We belong to one another in the charity of the communion of saints. #953
- Christ entrusts the Church with the ministry of reconciliation. No offense is beyond forgiveness. #981-983
- Lord's Prayer: "Forgive us... as we forgive." #2838-2845



Kindness is an important aspect of the culture of dialogue, and dialogue is indispensable to live in peace, to live as brothers and sisters, who do not always agree - this is normal - but who nevertheless speak to each other, listen to each other and try to understand each other and to move toward one another. We only need to think of what the "world would be like without the patient dialogue of the many generous persons who keep families and communities together. Unlike disagreement and conflict, persistent and courageous dialogue does not make headlines, but quietly helps the world to live better" (cf. Encyclical Fratelli tutti, 198).

Pope Francis

HOMILY OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS.

FIRST VESPERS ON THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD AND TE DEUM IN THANKSGIVING FOR THE PAST YEAR

### Discuss

1. How can you show compassion and mercy to others?
2. Is it difficult to show mercy and kindness to certain people?
3. What are ways that you can share God's kindness to people in your life?

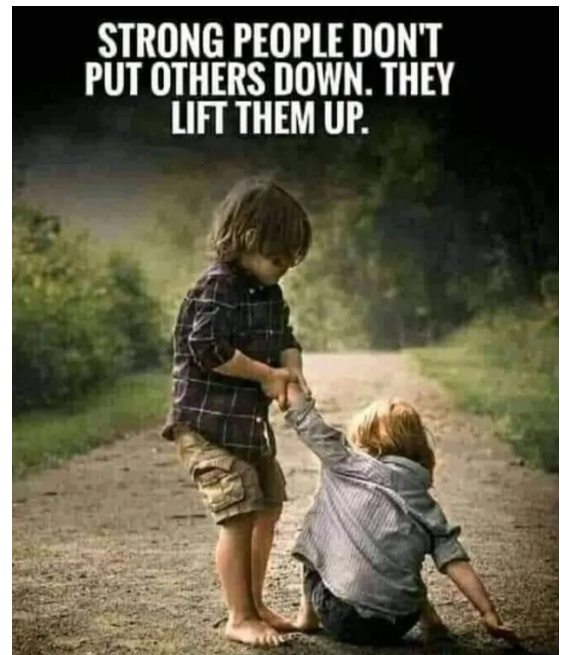
**Want more? Go Deeper!**



The Holy Spirit and the Hidden Power of Kindness

### Reflection Question

Who is the Lord calling you to reach out to, in order to share His grace, by being kind and merciful?



## 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 be kinder to others?

No act of kindness,  
no matter how small,  
is ever wasted.  
- Aesop

## Practical Activities



*For the Individual*

### **Mercy Inventory**

Take a personal inventory of people in your life with whom you need to share the mercy and kindness of God with. Pray for the courage to step up and share Christ's loving mercy.



*For Couples*

### **Love Language Gift**

Share an act of kindness for your spouse by giving a "gift" that speaks to their love language: quality time, physical touch, acts of service, giving and receiving gifts, or words of affirmation.



*For the Domestic Church*

### **Act of Kindness for Your Family**

Find something kind you can do to help your family this week. Maybe you can clean something for a family member, fold their clothes, wash their car, help them with a project, etc.



*Missionary Mindset*

### **Random Acts of Kindness**

Visit the [Random Acts of Kindness](https://www.randomacts.org/) website for various ways that you can share random acts of kindness this week. Then you can be a blessing to others in big and small ways.



## 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](https://www.usccb.org/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**

## ACT OF LOVE

O Lord God,  
I love you  
above all things  
and I love  
my neighbor  
for your sake  
because you are  
the highest,  
infinite and  
perfect good,  
worthy of  
all my love.

In this love  
I intend  
to live and die.

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?

**How can we be kinder and more merciful?**

# WE ARE THE CHURCH

## What Makes us Catholic?

### Catholic Social Teaching

**Catholic social teaching is based on and inseparable from our understanding of human life and human dignity. Every human being is created in the image of God and redeemed by Jesus Christ, and therefore is invaluable and worthy of respect as a member of the human family. Every person, from the moment of conception to natural death, has inherent dignity and a right to life consistent with that dignity. Human dignity comes from God, not from any human quality or accomplishment.\***

\*USCCB: Sharing Catholic Social Teaching: Challenges and Directions

## 7 Principles of Catholic Social Teaching



- 1.) The Life and Dignity of the Human Person
- 2.) Call to Family, Community, and Participation
- 3.) Rights and Responsibilities
- 4.) Option for the Poor and Vulnerable
- 5.) Dignity of Work and Rights of Workers
- 6.) Solidarity
- 7.) Care for God's Creation

From *Catholic Social Teaching: Challenges and Directions—Reflections of the U.S. Catholic Bishops* (1998)

## Word of the Week - Kindness

The word *kindness* is derived from the Old English "gecynde", meaning natural, native, or innate. It is the quality of the quality of being friendly, generous, and considerate. Kindness is a very natural virtue, even though we may not always show it well. Let us strive to become our better selves by practicing kindness.

## Faith Groups at CGS



FAITH GROUPS

### 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



A podcast about Catholic Saints

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

I expect to pass through life but once. If therefore, there be any kindness I can show, or any good thing I can do to any fellow being, let me do it now, and not defer or neglect it, as I shall not pass this way again.

~ William Penn

## **Articles**

- I Peter 5 // [Toward a Catholic Understanding of "Mercy."](#)
- US Catholic // [Is there a Difference Between Mercy & Compassion?](#)
- Catholic Digest // [Showing Mercy in Daily Life](#)
- Marionist Fathers // [Show Mercy to Yourself](#)

## **Videos**

- **[Formed//Opening the Word](#)** - Reflection on this week's Gospel
- Ascension Presents // [Is Showing Mercy a Sign of Weakness?](#) -- video (7:51)
- Kapaun's Men Virtue Series // [Mercy - Episode 2](#) -- video (13:24)
- Formed // [Catholic Social Teachings 101](#) -- video series

## Catholic Apps



## Book Suggestions

## Current Bible Studies

### The Bible Timeline - 24 Sessions

Monday Mornings & Tuesday 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 mercy and how do I show it?**

**Grades 5 & 6: "Venture" by Pflaum Publishing**

**Grades 7 & 8: "Visions" by Pflaum Publishing**

Ascension Presents // What is Mercy? -- video (6:58)

Ascension Presents // Is Showing Mercy a Sign of Weakness? -- video (7:51)

Ascension Presents // Generosity the Greatest Spiritual Gift -- video (5:08)

Life Teen // Calling on Mercy -- blog

"Extend your mercy toward others, so that there can be no one in need whom you meet without helping. For what hope is there for us if God should withdraw his mercy from us?"  
— St. Vincent de Paul



Life Teen

## **51 Creative Ways to Show Mercy.**



### Characteristics of Adolescents

**Question: What is mercy and how do I show it?**

Ascension Presents // What is Mercy? -- video (6:58)

Ascension Presents // Is Showing Mercy a Sign of Weakness? -- video (7:51)

Ascension Presents // Generosity the Greatest Spiritual Gift -- video (5:08)

Life Teen // Calling on Mercy -- 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

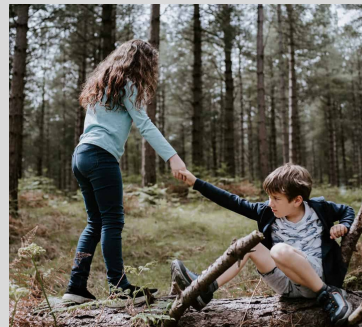
### [Characteristics of Young Children](#)

**Question: How can I be kind to people?**

**"Seeds"** by Pflaum Publishing

FORMED // [Lukas Club: Works of Mercy](#) -- video (11:00)

Activity // [Kindness Coloring Page](#)



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

### [Characteristics of Children](#)

**Question: How can I be kind and forgive others?**

**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](#).

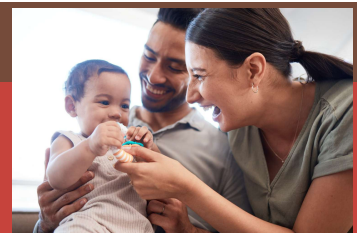
The Kid Bulletin // [September 17, 2023](#)

FORMED // [Lukas Club: Works of Mercy](#) -- video (11:00)

## For Parents

## Works of Mercy for Catholic Families

Sadlier Religion Blog



## [Family Faith Practices](#)

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

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

[USCCB // Prayer of Pope Francis for Mercy](#)



[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.org)

### Sacred Art to Inspire You



#### Compassion and Mercy.

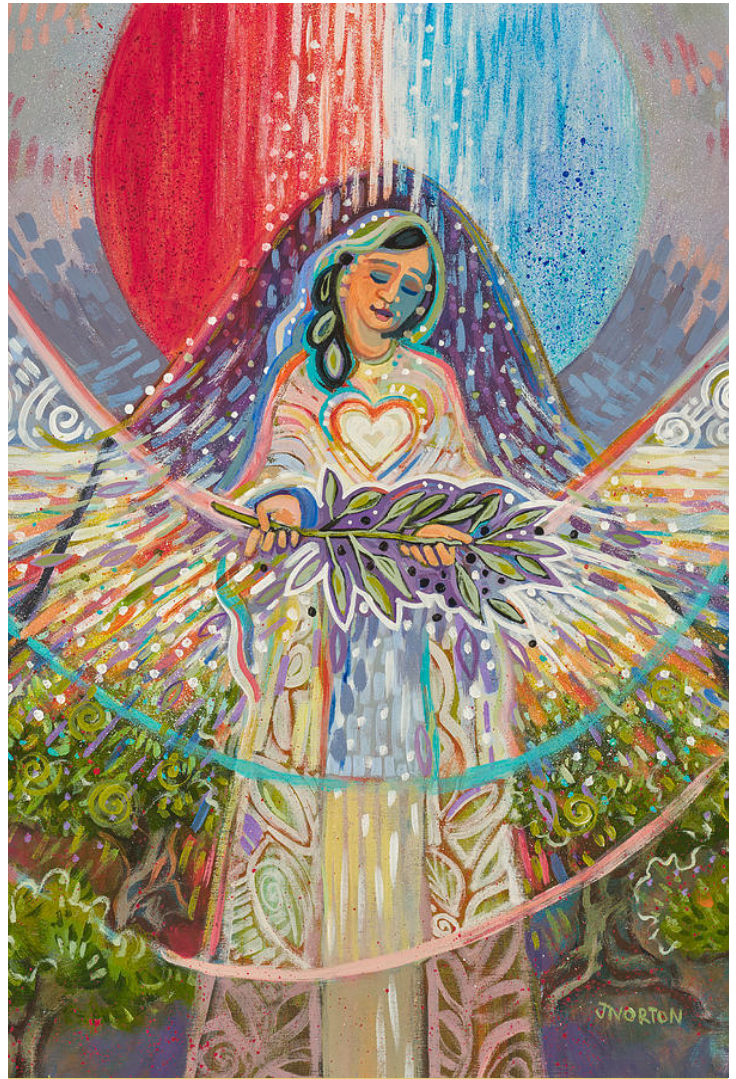
Brent Kastler

### Music to Move You:

Jeannie Cotter // The Lord is Kind and Merciful -- video (3:37)

Chris Tomlin // Goodness, Love and Mercy -- video (7:38)

Matt Maher // Hold Us Together -- video (3:24)



#### Blessed are the Merciful

Jen Norton

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

## Meet Your Evangelization & Discipleship Staff

### Helping Others to Know and Love Jesus Christ



#### **Ivana Meshell**

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Department Assistant  
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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.

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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@cgsgcc.church](mailto:discipleship@cgsgcc.church)

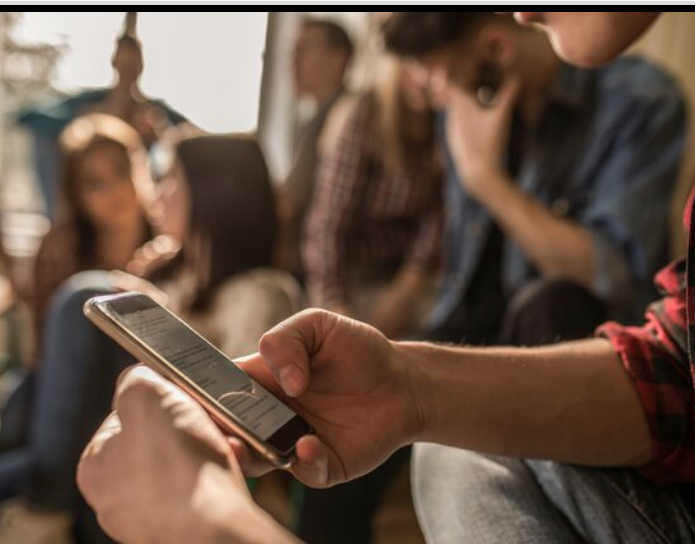


## Our Vision Statement

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](#)



@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.