

CGS FAMILY

TWENTY-THIRDSUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Volume III, Guide 42, September 10, 2023

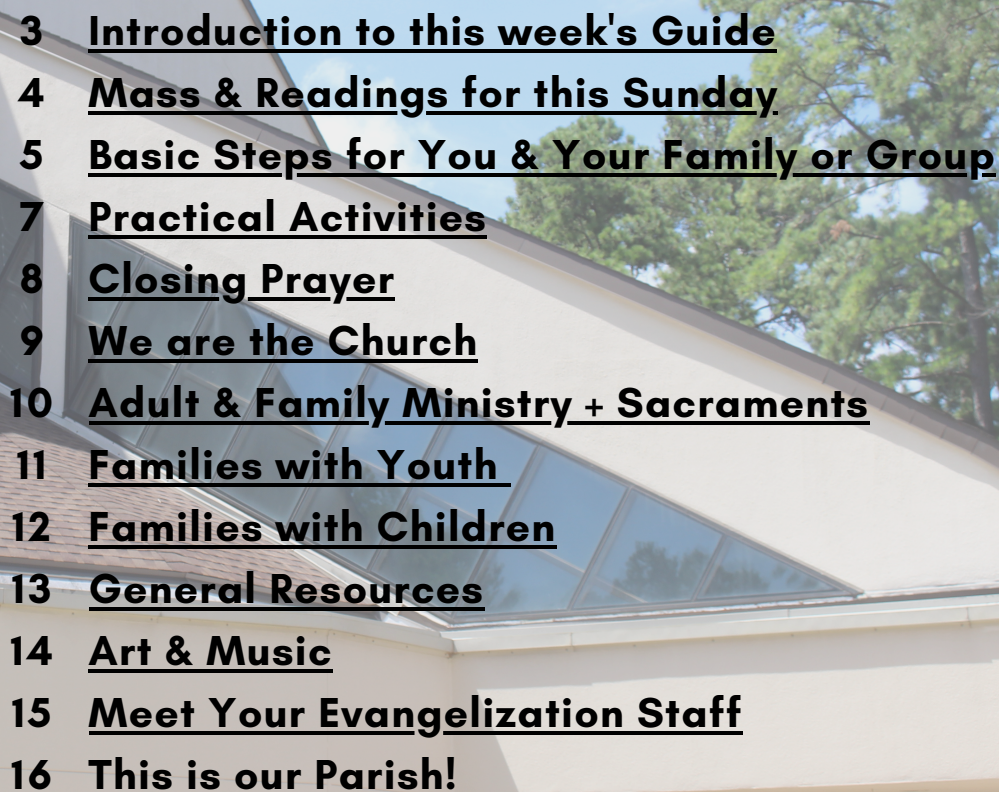


**Jesus taught us to correct
others with compassion.
How do I show others this?**

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.

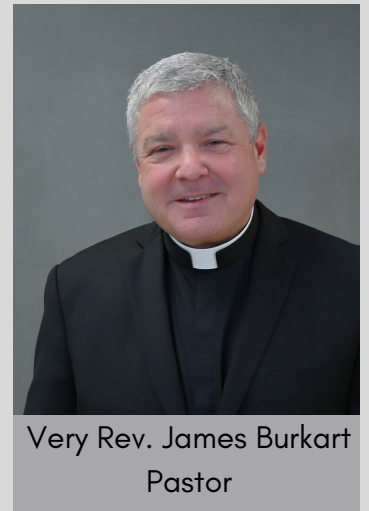
For questions, comments, and feedback, please contact us at

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.



This Week

For the Love of God

This Sunday's readings brought a small scene I had witnessed to mind. Recently, I was with a friend in a nationally known coffee chain to grab an iced drink, a chat, and to escape the heat of Spring, TX. As I was going to retrieve our iced chia lattes, I passed a mother and teenage daughter who were having an intense conversation. I could see the look of concern on the mother's face as the daughter said emphatically, "You don't have the right to tell me I am wrong. That is what I think is right, so it is right for me." As I reached for my drink at the counter, I heard the mother reply sternly, "Just because you think it is right doesn't make it right." "Mom, you don't understand or care about the way things work now," was the daughter's reply. On the way to my corner table, I saw the daughter's resolve that she was absolutely correct and the angry shock that her mother dared to correct her.

As I handed my friend her drink, I told her what I had just overheard. She and I discussed in depth how: social media encourages the daughter's attitude by being able to find a "community" that supports the teen's position how society at large believes that disagreeing with popular views is considered a form of prejudice rather than an honest disagreement of beliefs; and that truth is dependent upon what each individual believes. What has been forgotten is that many modern philosophers have stated, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." In the Reading from the Prophet Ezekiel, we will be held accountable if we do not confront the wicked. How often have we been hesitant to give correction because we are insecure about how to approach correction of the offense.

Jesus teaches us how to handle that correction properly: with **LOVE and COMPASSION**. Jesus tirelessly proclaims the Father's love and mercy to everyone: Jew, Gentile, sinner, and disciple. As Christians, we are instructed to do the same. Jesus changed people's lives because He treated all people with love and respect, never ignoring each sinner's hidden dignity. As modern disciples of Christ, we too must reach out to each other with the love Jesus taught us. Love motivated Jesus to find sinners and treat them with compassion, can we do less?

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.

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

readings and podcasts, Year A

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)

Reading I: Ezekiel 33:7-9

Responsorial Psalm: 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9

Reading II: Romans 13:8-10

Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20



PAULUS MEDIA & CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC CHURCH

PRESENTS

This Weeks Gospel Message from 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

Jesus taught us to correct others with compassion. How do I show others this?

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

Have you ever had the experience of being corrected with compassion? How did you react to the correction?



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:

- Restore one another in gentleness. Galatians 6:1
- Whoever brings back a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death. James 5:19-20
- All scripture is useful for teaching, refutation, for correction. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

In the Catechism of the Catholic Church

- Charity: the greatest of virtues. Includes fraternal correction. #1826-1829
- The witness value of a good Christian life. #2044-2046
- In works of mercy we come to the spiritual and bodily aid of our neighbor. #2447



Jesus told us not to judge. Fraternal correction is a mark of the love and communion which must reign in the Christian community; it is, rather, a mutual service that we can and must render to one another. To reprove a brother is a service, and it is possible and effective only if each one recognizes oneself to be a sinner and in need of the Lord's forgiveness. The same awareness that enables me to recognize the fault of another, even before that, reminds me that I have likewise made mistakes and I am often wrong.

Pope Francis, Angelus, 7 September 2014.

Discuss

1. What does it mean "to correct others with compassion?" Recall a time when you were successful doing so and a time when you were not. What was the difference?
2. Has there ever been a time when you wished you had corrected someone and you didn't? What stopped you? Why?
3. How do you remain loving to someone who has wronged you?

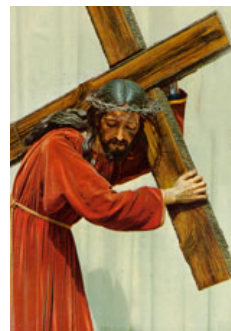
Want more? Go Deeper!



A Commentary by St. John Chrysostom

Reflection Question

St. Paul says, "Owe nothing to anyone, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law." (Romans 13:8), how do you live out this instruction when correcting others with compassion?



"Look into My Heart and see there the love and mercy which I have for humankind, and especially for sinners. Look, and enter into My Passion"

Jesus to St. Faustina (Diary 1663)

CONNECT with OTHERS...

Living the Gospel with commitment & action.

What is one thing I can do this week that will compassion to others?

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves.

Philippians 2:3

Practical Activities



For the Individual - **Become Part of Second Family Ministry**

The Second Family ministry at Christ the Good Shepherd, in partnership with Care Partners, uses our God-given gifts of compassion, love, and grace to offer friendship, support, and practical help to seniors needing assistance in our parish. Please prayerfully consider joining Second Family Ministry. If you would like more information about volunteering, please contact Amy Vross 832-969-1112.



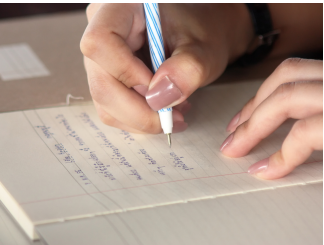
For Couples - **Compassion when facing Challenges**

Sometimes it's difficult to remain in a compassionate place with our partners. When facing challenges, bring yourself back to all the positive things about your relationship and wait until you're both in a state of mind before discussing challenges. Create a safe space where you and your spouse can work together to set course corrections and design conscious and loving recovery strategies.



For the Domestic Church - **Paper Chain Of Compassion Acts**

Cut a bunch of strips from construction or colorful printer paper. Encourage each member of your domestic church to think of all the times they have shown compassion to others and when other people have been compassionate to them. Write the acts of compassion on the paper strips. During the next week make a chain out the acts of compassion you have been able to show to others.



Missionary Mindset - **Write a Letter of Encouragement to an Elderly Person**

Words of encouragement can also have a profound effect on the elderly's mental health, helping them to maintain a positive outlook and reducing the risk of depression and anxiety. Therefore, it is important to offer words of encouragement to the elderly in our lives, reminding them of their worth and acknowledging the value of their contributions to our communities.



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 Compassion

author unknown

Dear Heavenly Father,

help me to be gentle towards every person I encounter today, in thought, word and deed. May I recognize that others are facing difficult circumstances which I know nothing about. Oh Lord, that others would encounter You when they meet me today!

Still my thoughts, bridle my tongue and open my heart. Fill me with a spirit of forgiveness and generosity. As it be Your will Lord, place the words in my mouth that others need to hear today.

Help me to share Your unfailing compassion with all people, especially those with whom I live and work.

In Your Mighty Name I pray,

Amen



Biplab Kundu//Compassion--
acrylic on paper

Come learn about different types of prayer, what discernment is, and the difference of Spiritual Direction and Counseling. Check the website or contact Blanca Richardson for Child Care Sign up to RSVP!
<https://tinyurl.com/3a3bvbv4>

Morning of Prayer and Reflection

Saturday September 23

9:30 - 12:30 PM



Register Now!



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?

Jesus taught us to correct others with compassion. How do I show others this?

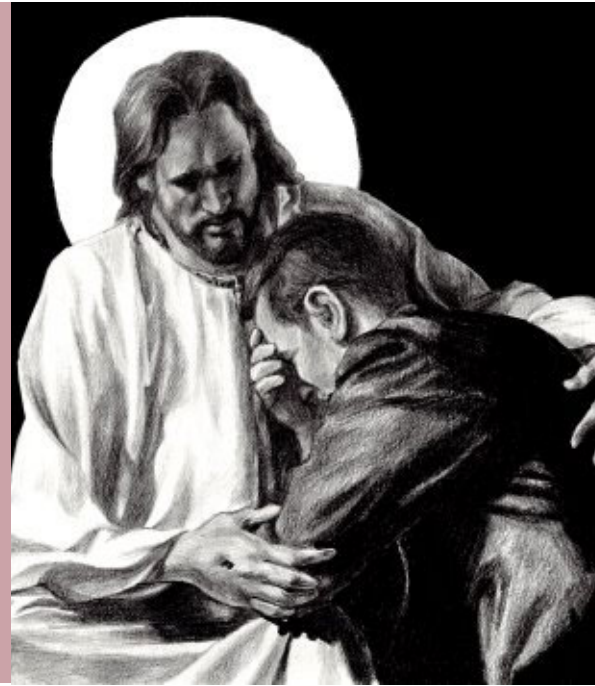
WE ARE THE CHURCH

What Makes us Catholic? The Sacrament of Reconciliation

The Sacrament of Reconciliation, commonly known as confession, in the Catholic Church offers forgiveness to sinners. One reason to go to confession is that it provides the penitent reconciliation with God, allowing them to live in His light and grace. Confession is normally held in a confessional, which is a box, stall or booth that enables you to talk to a priest directly and privately. There is often a screen divider between you and the priest.

Confession is a beautiful opportunity to confess your sins to God and seek true forgiveness. This sacrament allows Jesus to absolve your sins and helps you lead a life following the guidance and glory of Christ. While it may seem difficult to confess your deepest fears, regrets, and sins, confession is a liberating experience that allows you to repair your relationship with our Lord.

Read more from Catholic World Mission, [5 Reasons to Go to Confession](#)



Word of the Week - Fraternal Correction

Fraternal correction is the admonishing of one's neighbor by a private individual with the purpose of reforming him or, if possible, preventing his sinful indulgence. This is clearly distinguishable from an official disciplining, and whose motive is not so directly the individual advantage of the offender as the furtherance of the common good. Click here for the complete article from [Catholic Answers/ Encyclopedia/ Corrections Fraternal](#).

Faith Groups at CGS



FAITH GROUPS

Four Reasons Why Faith Groups are Vital

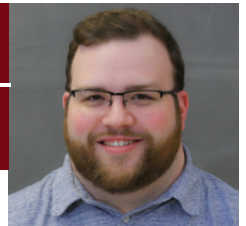
(Video, 2:49)

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

Ask us how.

Saints of the Month

by Jeremy Hearne



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

- Father Kenneth Doyle // Why one should engage in fraternal correction
- Bob Sullivan // Fraternal correction
- Opus Dei // Fraternal correction: A Help Along the Path to Holiness
- The Visayan Daily Star // Fraternal correction

Videos

- **Formed** // Opening the Word - Reflection on this week's Gospel Reading
- Ascension Presents // How to Correct Someone in Sin (Fraternal Correction) -- (9:48)
- Catholic Conversations // A Plea for Intolerance! Fulton Sheen Destroys Tolerance -- (29:59)
- Sensus Fidelium // Virtue of Fraternal Correction -- video (15:14)
- Pigasus Pictures // The Good Catholic (Compassion Speech) -- (2:03)

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 compassion and how do I show it to others?

Grades 5 & 6: "Venture" by Pflaum Publishing

Grades 7 & 8: "Visions" by Pflaum Publishing

Ascension Presents // [Do Catholic Have to Respect Everyone?](#) -- video (8:46)

Ascension Presents // [Wanting to Fix People](#) -- video (6:37)

Ascension Presents // [Be a Hater](#) -- video (7:34)

Life Teen // [Compassion and Emotional Boundaries](#) -- blog

"Let us not use bombs and guns to overcome the world. Let us use love and compassion. Peace begins with a smile--smile five times a day at someone you don't really want to smile at all--do it for peace. So let us radiate peace...and extinguish in the world and in the hearts of all men all hatred and love for power."

-Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta



Adolescence

High School, Grades 9-12

Characteristics of Adolescents

Question: What is compassion and how do I show it to others?

Ascension Presents // [Do Catholic Have to Respect Everyone?](#) -- video (8:46)

Ascension Presents // [Wanting to Fix People](#) -- video (6:37)

Ascension Presents // [Be a Hater](#) -- video (7:34)

Life Teen // [Compassion and Emotional Boundaries](#) -- 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

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 help others made good choices?
"Seeds" by Pflaum Publishing

The Kid's Bulletin // September 10, 2023



Childhood Elementary, Grades 1-5

Characteristics of Children

Question: How can you help others make better decisions in a loving way?

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's Bulletin // September 10, 2023

FORMED // Philo & Sophie: Making Good Choices -- video (15:00)

For Parents



Strong Catholic Family Faith

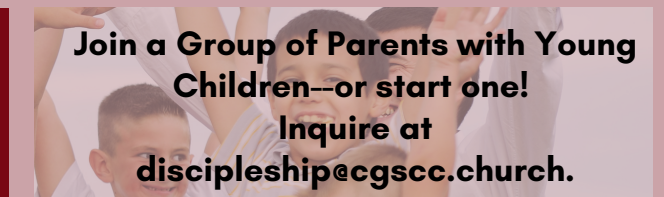
A project of Strong Catholic Families, Strong Catholic Youth Initiative



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

Loyola Press // Peace Prayer



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 Image

Though Your Sins Be as Scarlet//Greg Collins

As you gaze upon "Though Your Sins Be as Scarlet," you can't help but feel the love and acceptance of the Savior. This painting is a powerful reminder of His willingness to forgive and heal us, no matter our past mistakes or sins. The woman's scarlet attire, alluding to our own brokenness and imperfection, is contrasted against the pure white of Christ's robes, representing His perfect love and mercy. Read more on [Fine Art America](http://FineArtAmerica.com)



Art on this Page

On the right

Pieter Braecke // Forgiveness (Le Pardon) 1893 -- sculptor

On the Left

Brent Borup // [Forgiveness -- Painting](http://FineArtAmerica.com) -- Fine Art America



Music to Move You

- JJ Weeks Band // [Let Them See You in Me](http://FineArtAmerica.com) -- Video (4:37)
- Sidewalk Prophets // [Save My Life \(Official Video\)](http://FineArtAmerica.com) -- (3:48)
- TobyMac // [Forgiveness \(music video\)](http://FineArtAmerica.com) -- (4:15)

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

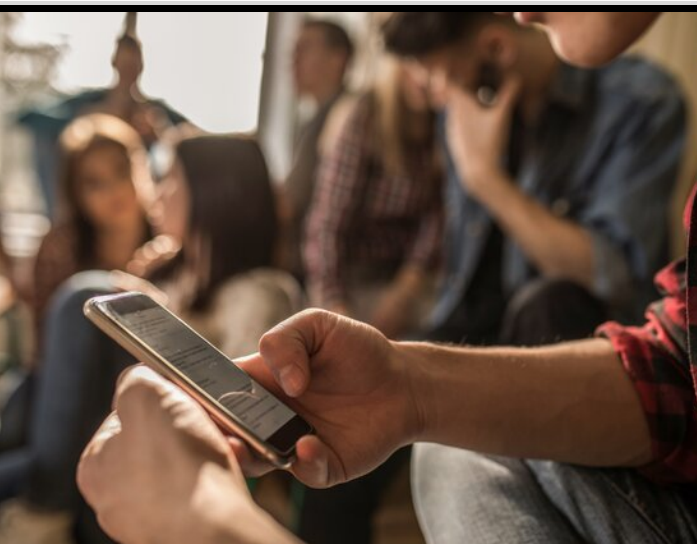


Our Vision Statement

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: 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.

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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.