


# CGS FAMILY

SOLLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Volume IV, Guide 7, January 7, 2024

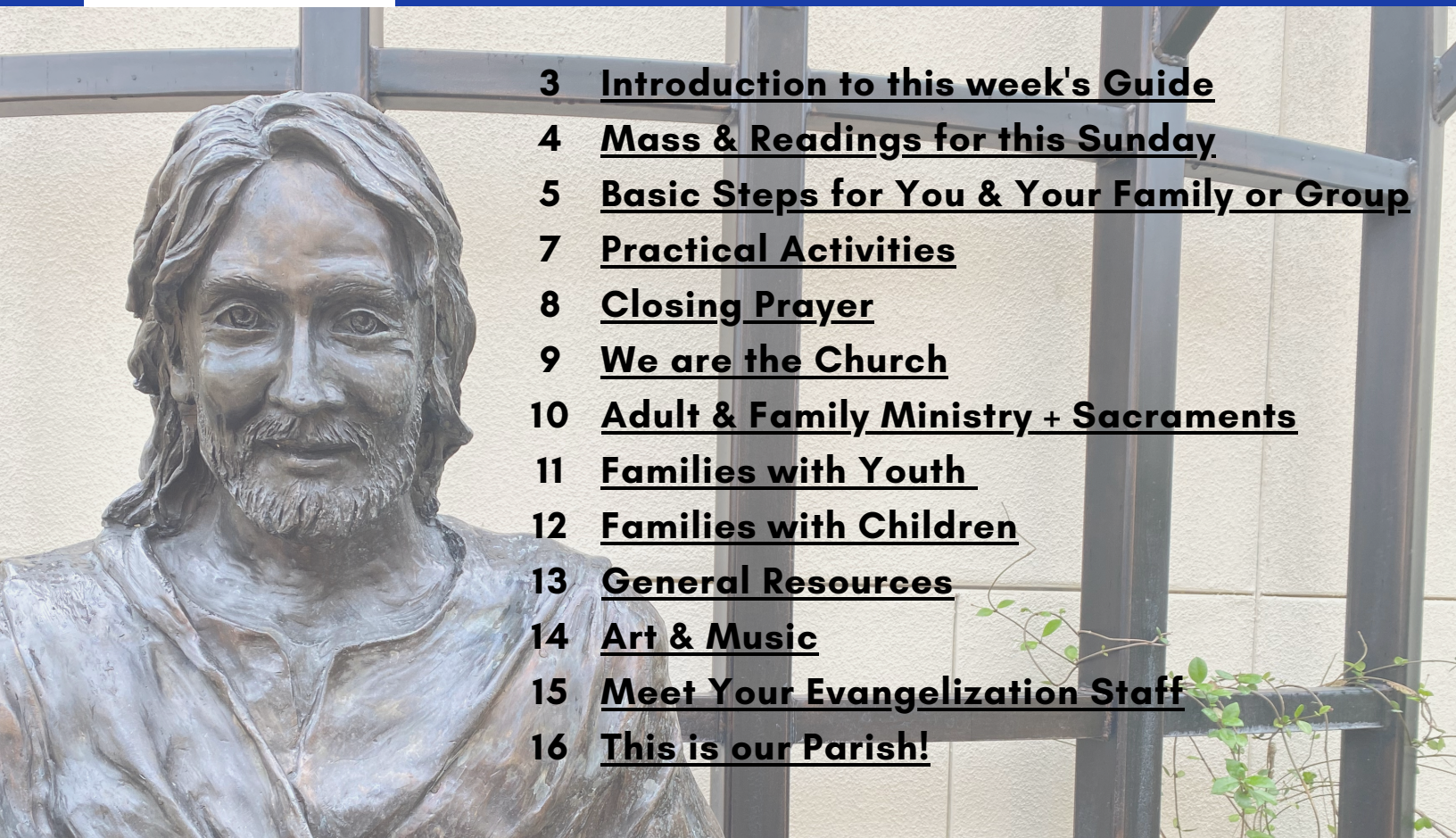


How can we be  
a nation that  
adores the Lord?

[www.cgsgcc.church](http://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@cgscs.church](mailto:discipleship@cgscs.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

### Lord, Every Nation on Earth Will Adore You

The Psalm response for today's Mass (Psalm 72) declares: "Lord, every nation on earth will adore you." This is intended to be a prophecy, pointing to a reality that is yet to come. Our nation and our world has not yet seen the fulfillment of this prophecy. Not only do the nations (including ours) *not* adore him wholeheartedly, many forces are at work undermining Christianity and even the faith of theists in general. There exists a continual contrast between those who believe in God and desire that he have control over their lives and those who deny God's existence and reject any control other than that which they claim for themselves. Many embrace a quasi Judeo-Christian faith: a mixture of both semi-Christian and modern pagan beliefs.

This comes breathlessly close to bringing religion in conversation with politics. This can understandably make a lot of people uncomfortable, and some say religion should have no dealings whatsoever with politics. If the Psalm, however, declares that every nation on earth will adore the Lord, we cannot blissfully ignore the prophecy. Jesus came to the nations so that they may have peace; therefore, God cares about how we treat one another, how we organize ourselves, and the systems of government that create nations. There will not be peace on earth until the rightful place of God is acknowledged and his reign over us is complete, which means we must actively desire and work for a world in which we seek not our own will, but his. The Prince of Peace came so that we may have peace. We get to participate in that.

These days, it seems, there is much bitterness between people who vehemently disagree on matters of faith and government. (You may have encountered some of that during the recent holidays.) It's about who is in charge and how we should organize ourselves for the best outcome. How can we be respectful of one another and become a nation that acknowledges God's rightful place in our lives? In what ways can we gently assist lost, faithless, or curious people to come to know God's loving, healing, and saving presence in their lives?

*Lord, may every nation on earth come to adore you. Help me to be among those who lead others toward the light of salvation by the way I live my life.*

**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?](#)  
[Find Mass Anywhere](#)

[Christ the Good Shepherd](#)  
[Mass Schedule](#)

[A Message About Mass to the  
Parents of Young Children](#)

[Guidelines for the Reception  
of Holy Communion](#)

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

[Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord](#)  
[readings and podcasts, Year B](#)

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)

First Reading: [Isaiah 60:1-6](#)

Psalms: [Psalms 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13.](#)

Second Reading: [Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6](#)

Gospel: [Matthew 2:1-12](#)



PAULUS MEDIA & CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC CHURCH  
PRESENTS

**[This Weeks Gospel Message from](#)**  
**[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 Become a Nation That Adores the Lord?

### 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.

### CONNECT with our daily LIVES

In what ways do you think our nation adores and serves the Lord and in what ways are we as a people failing to put God first in our lives?

Give examples.

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

## Psalm 72

"Lord, every nation on earth will adore You."

Epiphany

## 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:**

- May all kings bow before him, all nations serve him--[Psalm 72:11](#).
- All the nations you have made shall come to bow before you, Lord--[Psalm 86:9](#)
- For my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. [Isaiah 56:7](#)

#### **In the Catechism of the Catholic Church**

- Sin caused humanity's division..."in their lands, each with its own language, by their families, in their nations"...to limit the pride of fallen humanity--[#56-57](#).
- The magi's coming to... the one who will be king of the nations--[#528](#)
- In obedience to Christ, Christians are called by their baptism to "make disciples of all the nations"--[#849](#)

## The Teaching from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

### **Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship**

Teaching document on the political responsibility of Catholics, representing our bishops' guidance for Catholics in the exercise of their rights and duties as participants in our democracy.

#### **Discuss**

1. How does worship and adoration of God affect us?  
How does it change us?
2. What kinds of things seem to keep people from putting God first in their lives?
3. Why is it important for us to worship God?
4. In what ways does our worship of God contribute to a society that adores the Lord?

#### **Want more? Go Deeper!**

[Using Our Gifts to Create a Nation that Adores the Lord](#)



#### **Reflection Question**

Have I ever thought about my devotion to God and worship of him affects the wider society and our nation? How do I participate in a being a part of a people who adores the Lord?



#### **Pray the Patriotic Rosary**

for the Consecration of our Nation

[See also a print version.](#)

## CONNECT with OTHERS...

Living the Gospel with commitment & action.

What is one thing I am are willing to change in my life so that many more people around me will come to know Jesus Christ and adore him as Savior and Lord?



### Practical Activities



*For the Individual*

#### Simple Ways to Share Your Faith

Our Department of Evangelization and Discipleship continues to develop Simple Ways to Share Your Faith. We would love for you to read this, tell us what you think, and offer your own suggestions. Write to us at [discipleship@cgscc.church](mailto:discipleship@cgscc.church)



*For Couples*

#### Learn about Faithful Citizenship

As a human race, we are deeply connected to one another in ways we cannot fully understand. What happens to a complete stranger in some larger way affects all of us. We all must share this country and this world together. Discover some ways to benefit the neighborhood and community around us; let your light shine so that many will see the good you do and give glory to God. (Matthew 5:16)



*For the Domestic Church*

#### Engage the World Around You

Browse this [webpage](#) (all the way to the bottom) to learn more about [Communities of Salt and Light](#) and the Social Teaching of the Church and identify one way your household can participate. Discuss among yourselves and agree together on what you want to do together and plan how you will do it.



*Missionary Mindset*

#### Just Listen!

If you extend yourself to others out of concern for their spiritual welfare, you will find many who are curious about God and the Church, but don't know how to approach it or how to begin. Listen to their story. Really listen. Don't try to correct them. Just listen. Caring enough to listen opens a path that can lead to a deeper encounter with the Lord.



## 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](#) 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**



### **The Adoration of the Magi.**

Detail showing a king prostrate before the holy family and an angel and Saint Joseph.

Fresco, 1303-1305  
by Giotto di Bondone (c.1266-1337)

### **What is a Fresco?**

## Prayer

Let us pray.

Bless, O Lord God almighty, this home, that in it there may be health, purity, the strength of victory, humility, goodness and mercy, the fulfillment of Your law, the thanksgiving to God the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; and may this blessing remain upon this home and upon all who dwell herein.

Through Christ our Lord.  
All: Amen.

*Taken from the text of the*  
**Epiphany Home Blessing**  
*St. Patrick Parish*  
*Brighton, Missouri*

## 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 a nation that adores the Lord?**

# WE ARE THE CHURCH



## What Makes us Catholic?

### What Catholics Believe About the Magi

The Gospels do not tell us precisely who the Magi were or where they came from. Even though some mystery remains as to their identity, the Church respects their act of worship: The Council of Trent (1545-- 1563), when underscoring the reverence that must be given to the **Holy Eucharist**, decreed, "The faithful of Christ venerate this most holy sacrament with the worship of **latria** which is due to the true God.... For in this sacrament, we believe that the same God is present whom the eternal Father brought into the world, saying of Him, 'Let all God's angels worship Him.' It is the same God whom the Magi fell down and worshiped, and finally, the same God whom the apostles adored in Galilee as Scripture says" (Decree on the Most Holy Eucharist, 5).

### Word of the Week - Latria

*Latria* refers to the supreme homage that is due to God alone; adoration, an act of worship showing complete submission to God. God alone deserves latria, which is different from *dulia*, which is the honor and respect we show to holy persons, as Mary the saints and the holy angels. Mary is given the highest honor, which we call *Mary hyperdulia* as she is the Mother of God she is given an exceptional place of honor among all the saints and angels. [Learn more.](#)

### Faith Groups at CGS



### Four Reasons Why Faith Groups are Vital

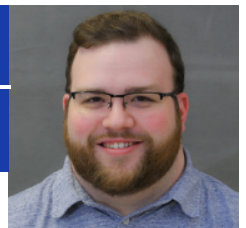
(Video, 2:49)

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

- [\*Kim Padan on Catholic Post // Every nation will adore the Lord, but it will take the witness of each of us\*](#)
- [\*Jen Arnold // Do Catholics Worship Mary and the Saints? – Latria vs Dulia\*](#)
- [\*United States Conference of Catholic Bishops // Civilize It: Dignity Beyond the Debate\*](#)

### Videos

- ***Formed***//***Opening the Word - Reflection on this week's Gospel Reading***
- [\*Catholic News World // What is Epiphany of the Lord in 4 minutes\*](#)
- [\*United States Conference of Catholic Bishops // Five short videos on Catholics participating in public life.\*](#)



### **Catholics Participate in Public Life**

We are called to witness to Faithful Citizenship as we participate in the public square through political engagement and civil dialogue. [Watch five short videos on Faithful Citizenship!](#)



### **Faithful Citizenship**

"We need to participate for the common good. Sometimes we hear: a good Catholic is not interested in politics. This is not true: good Catholics immerse themselves in politics by offering the best of themselves so that the leader can govern." – Pope Francis, 9/16/13

### **Catholic Apps**



### **Book Suggestions**

### **Current Bible Studies**

### **Young Adult Ministry**

### **The Bible Timeline - 24 Sessions**

**Monday Mornings & Tuesday Evenings**

### **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 can you deepen your relationship with Jesus?**

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

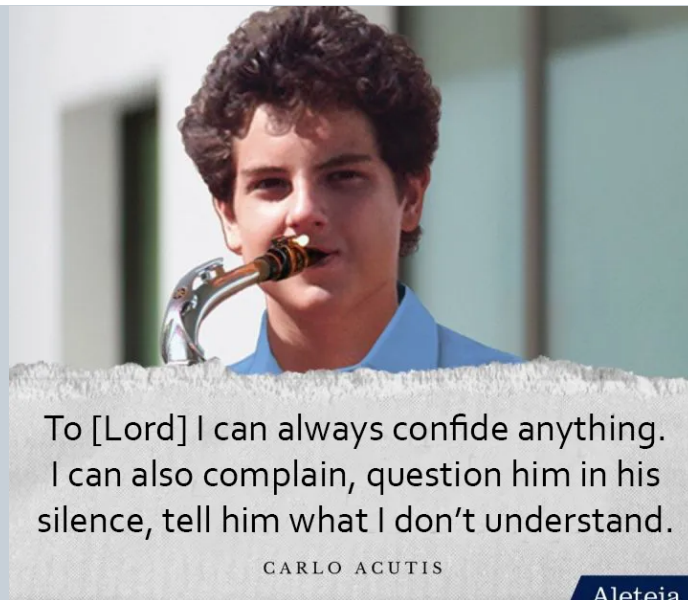
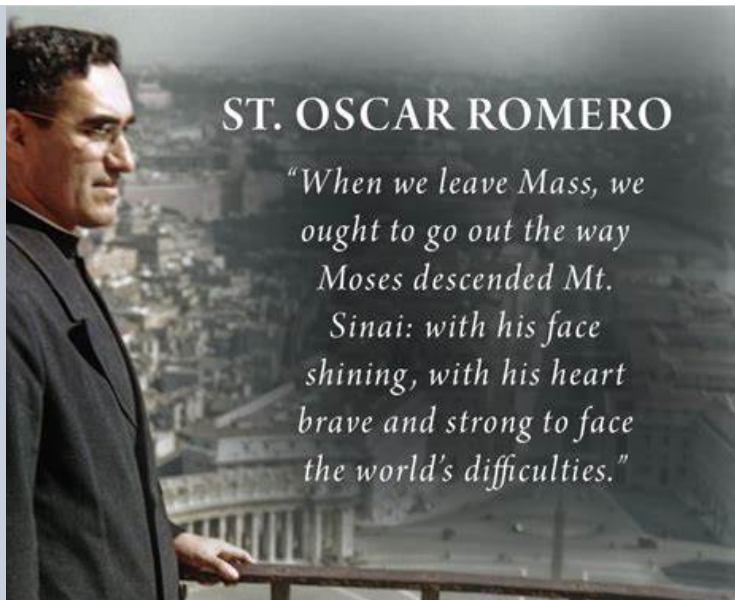
**Grades 7 & 8: "Visions" by Pflaum Publishing**

Ascension Presents // You can be a Saint, Here's How! -- video (8:44)

Ascension Presents // The Word of the Year You Need in 2024 -- video (5:19)

Ascension Presents // The Best Way to Grow Closer to Christ -- video (7:16)

Ascension Presents // How to Practice the Presence of God -- video (7:26)



## Adolescence High School, Grades 9-12

### Characteristics of Adolescents

**Question: How can you deepen your relationship with Jesus?**

Ascension Presents // You can be a Saint, Here's How! -- video (8:44)

Ascension Presents // The Word of the Year You Need in 2024 -- video (5:19)

Ascension Presents // The Best Way to Grow Closer to Christ -- video (7:16)

Ascension Presents // How to Practice the Presence of God -- video (7:26)



## Youth Gather at CGS

Middle school and High school meet every Wednesday 7-8:30pm and Every Sunday for Youth & Their Families from 4-5:30 pm ending with Praise & Worship until 7pm.

# 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 love Jesus everywhere?**

"Seeds" by Pflaum Publishing

Living Faith // January Kids Calendar

Catholic Icing // Celebrating Epiphany with Catholic Kids -- article

## Childhood Elementary, Grades 1-5

## Characteristics of Children

**Question: How can you cherish Jesus at home and school?**

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

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

Sophia Institute // Ready to Use Lesson for Each Sunday

Living Faith // January Kids Calendar

The Kids Bulletin // January 7, 2024

FORMED // Drawing Closer to God - The Three Wise Men: Share Your Gifts -- video (25:00)

## 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](mailto: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](https://www.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 the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops



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**--[formed.org](http://formed.org)

Parish subscription free for parishioners--register once, access all content.

**Using Sacred Art to Bring the Faith Alive**--[Sophia Institute](http://Sophia Institute)

## Sacred Art to Inspire You

### COVER IMAGE

American Christmas card featuring an image of the Magi.



Beautiful Artwork by [Artist Yongsung Kim](#)

## Reyes del Terruno

[Ivonne Galanes Svard](#), Fine Art America



## The Magi

[R. Carol Skinner](#)

## Music to Move You

- Francesca LaRosa // [Psalm 72 - Lord, Every Nation on Earth Will Adore You](#)
- John Michael Talbot // [Lord, Every Nation On Earth Shall Adore You](#)
- Downhere // [How Many Kings](#) --video (4:24)

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

## Meet Your Evangelization & Discipleship Staff

### Helping Others to Know and Love Jesus Christ



#### **Ivana Meshell**

Director of Evangelization & Discipleship  
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#### **Anna Spalding**

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#### **Jackie Coba**

Evangelization & Discipleship  
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@cgscc.church](mailto:discipleship@cgscc.church)



## Our Vision Statement

Building a community of love and hope by putting our faith into action.

18511 Klein Church Rd. Spring, TX 77379

(281) 376-6831 \* [cgsgc.church](http://cgsgc.church)

Very Reverend James Burkart, Pastor

[discipleship@cgsgc.church](mailto:discipleship@cgsgc.church)



Official Page:

[Christ the Good Shepherd Catholic Church](https://www.facebook.com/ChristtheGoodShepherdCatholicChurch)



[@cgsgc](https://www.instagram.com/cgsgc)



Join us on Flocknote:

Text CGS to 84576.

You will receive emails & texts from CGS according to your preferences.

**The CGS FAMILY Guides are produced weekly by our Office of Evangelization and Discipleship and are posted on our website each Friday evening every week of the year.**

**"HELPING PEOPLE TO KNOW AND LOVE JESUS CHRIST."**

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.