

CGS FAMILY

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Volume IV, Guide 9 // January 21, 2024

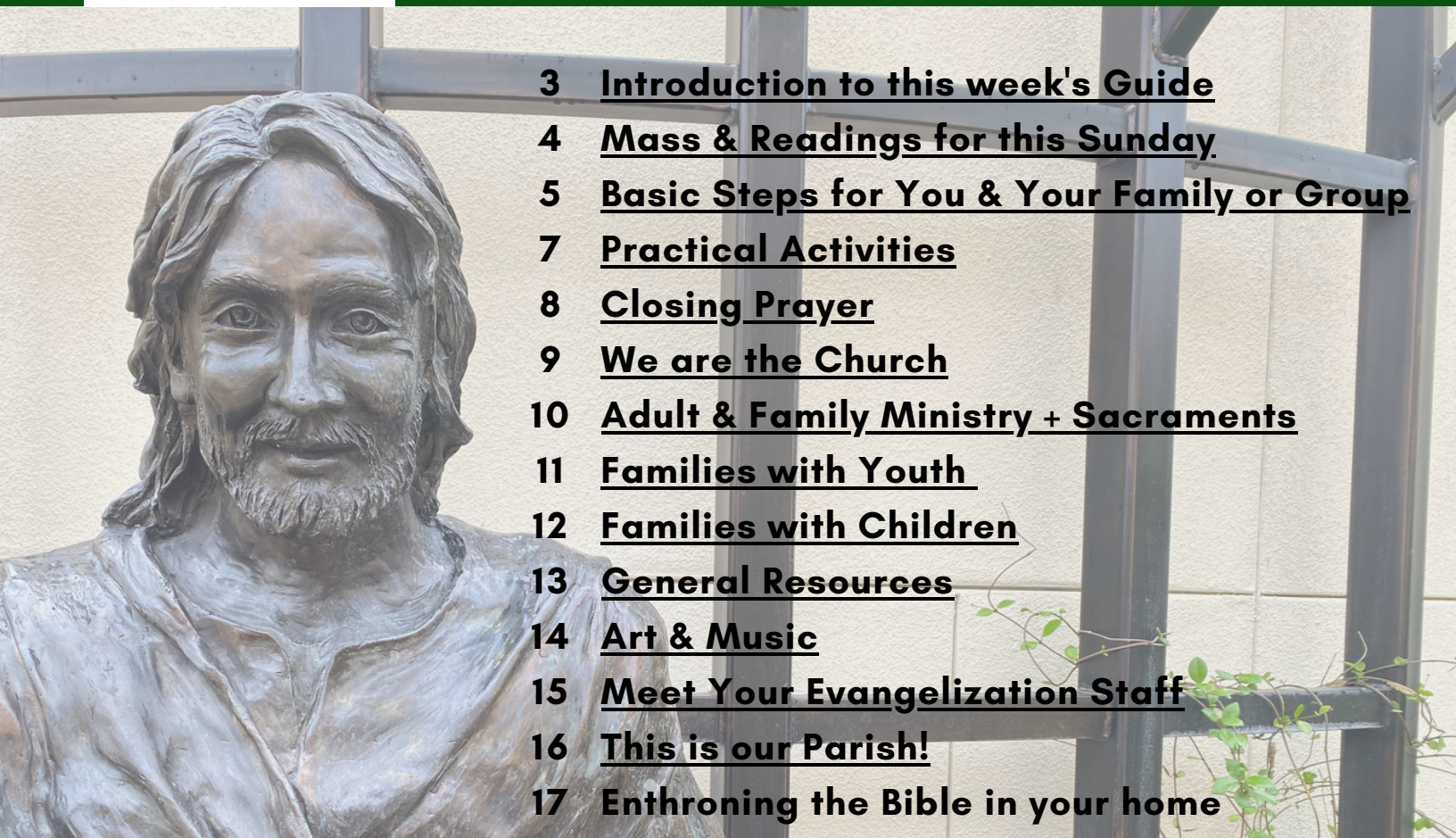


How do I respond to
Jesus' call?

www.cgscclchurch.com



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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.

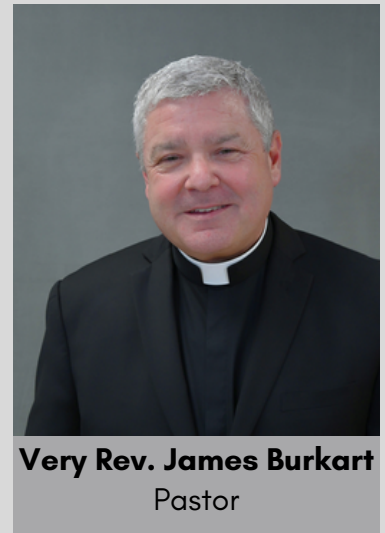
For questions, comments, and feedback, please contact us at

discipleship@cgscscc.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

Teach Me Your Ways, O Lord



Jesus begins his teaching saying, "Repent and believe in the gospel." Then, Jesus starts to call his disciples and he continues to call disciples today. In a world that states there is no universal truth but everyone's own truth, can Jesus' call and can my response be just for me alone? Christ says, "NO!" This is made clear to us because he continues. even today, to call individuals through the word of God. One of the greatest examples of this was from the early church. From *The Confessions* by St. Augustine, in his own words we hear of Augustine's conversion story. Augustine was raised in a time when there were many competing thoughts and ideas, immorality, and religious beliefs. As citizens of the most powerful nation on earth, his parents were able to provide well for Augustine and give him a good education. Despite being raised by a devote Catholic mother, Augustine explored the many "truths" of his culture and his time, many actions and beliefs that were immoral.

In Augustine's quest for the truth, he becomes increasingly discontent and is pulled backed to Christianity. As he feels the pressure of this internal conflict, he sits on a garden bench and weeps. As he sat there, he reports, he heard a child's voice "from a nearby house" repeating the words, "pick up and read, pick up and read." Hearing this as a divine command to open the Bible, Augustine did so and read an injunction against "indecentencies," a command to put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh in its lusts (Romans 13:13-14). Now he responds to Christ call; now he accepts God's will for him. And through the Bible, Augustine is taught the ways of the Lord. Augustine lived in a time and place similar to ours; Rome was the wealthiest country in the world and truth was relative to your personal beliefs. God teaches each of us to do His will, even amid the hostility of our world. We have all met someone in the midst of the struggle to find Christ. I don't know what kind of help we can give to others but maybe, we are called to be the voice in the garden that encourages them to pick up the Word of God and find the truth in it.

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?](#)
[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.

[Third Sunday in Ordinary Time](#)

readings and podcasts, Year B

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)

First Reading: Jonah 3: 1-5, 10

Psalm 25: 4-5, 6-7, 8-9

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7: 29-31

Gospel: Mark 1: 14-20



PAULUS MEDIA & CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC CHURCH

PRESENTS

This Weeks Gospel Message from Jose Juan Valdez
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 do I respond to Jesus' call?

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

Share a time when you felt you were being "called" to do something.

Word of God Sunday



Catholic.Bible
has USCCB resources
in English and Spanish
for Sunday of the The
Word of God

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:

- ...live worthy of the call you have received Ephesians 4:1-4
- Christ Jesus has called us to a holy life 2 Timothy 1:10
- Everyone should live as the lord has assigned 1 Corinthians 7:17

In the Catechism of the Catholic Church

- Jesus calls us to conversion. #1427
- God calls man first. #2567
- Reading Sacred Scripture revives the spirit of conversion #1437

Ignorance of the Scriptures
is ignorance of Christ.

St. Jerome



What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. That is what love looks like.

St. Augustine

Discuss

1. Have you "heard" God calling you to follow him? How did you respond?
2. How are you more likely to respond to God's call to you, by reading the Bible or in conversation with others? Why?
3. What distractions do you need to quiet to so I can hear God more clearly?

Want more? Go Deeper!



A commentary by Augustine of Hippo

Reflection Question

What do I need to leave in the past to embrace the future God has planned for me?

Remember not the events of the past,
the things of long ago consider not

Isaiah 43:18



CONNECT with OTHERS...

Living the Gospel with commitment & action.

How can I make listening to God through His Holy Word more apart of my everyday life?

Practical Activities



For the Individual

Pick a personal scripture for Inspiration

Life or a situation often times become a little overwhelming. Find a short scripture passage in the Bible that speaks and uplifts you. Memorize it or write it where you see it often (a sticky note on a mirror or door.) This will help remind you of God's purpose for you.



For Couples

Go on a picnic with the World of God

Go on a picnic and talk about the guidance of Ephesians 5:21-33 for your relationship. Actively listen to each other asking questions to better understand the other.



For the Domestic Church

Read daily Gospel before a shared meal

Before your family gathers for a shared meal someone proclaims the Gospel of the day. (You can find the daily readings on the USCCB website) As you share the meal share your views, struggles, and inspirations that the Gospel inspires. Practice listening attentively to each other.



Missionary Mindset

Share an evening of Scripture with your Protestant Friends

In preparation, read the article Catholic and Protestant Bibles: What is the Difference? to be able to understand the difference and grow in unity with each other. Have everyone come with a Bible story to share. Listen to one another and have fun together!



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 before Reading the Bible

Father, anoint me with your Holy Spirit, so that as I read your eternal word, your word may penetrate my whole being and transform me.

Grant me the blessing to be a faithful disciple in believing the Word of God and that I may be a light shining upon all who are in darkness.

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 do I respond to Jesus' call?

WE ARE THE CHURCH

What Makes Us Catholic

Scripture and Tradition

Catholics use Scripture and Tradition because Scripture tells us to use both. St. Paul wrote to the Thessalonians:

"So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by letter." 2 Thessalonians 2:15

If God wanted us to use Scripture alone, wouldn't he tell us as much in the Bible? True, St. Paul emphasizes the value of Scripture:

"All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16-17

However, St. Paul is just as emphatic about the value of the Church:

"If I am delayed, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and bulwark of the truth." 1 Timothy 3:1

Learn more: Ascension Presents // [Why Catholics Use Scripture and Tradition](#) --video (12:10)

Word of the Week - Lectio Divina

The phrase lectio divina means "divine reading" in Latin and is a fitting name for this prayer practice of listening to Scripture with the ear of the heart. Lectio divina (often called "lectio" for short) is a dialogue with God through Scripture that includes the whole self: thoughts, images, memories, desires, etc. The movements within lectio divina involve reading, listening to, responding to and resting in the Word of God. It can be practiced alone or with a community. Learn more from Stephen Barany article [How to Practice Lectio Divina Praying with Scripture](#).

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

- Catholic Community at Stanford//[Commentary on Mark 1:17-20 from "Living Space"](#)
- Aleteia//[Opening the Bible at random for advice: Superstition or revelation?](#)
- Catholic Exchange//[Come, Follow Me](#)

Videos

- **Formed**//[Opening the Word - Reflection on this week's Gospel Reading](#)
- Dynamic Catholic//[Sunday Gospel 1/24/2024 \(4:39\)](#)
- Bishop Barron's Sunday Sermon//[Following Jesus Comes First \(13:15\)](#)
- Formed//[Walk the Walk: Following Christ as His Disciple by Time Gray--Audio only \(1:16:00\)](#)



Raising Saints

Is an e-book to equip and inspire parents to grow in their own faith and then lead their children closer to the Lord. "If you want to know what a kid's faith will look like when they grow up, look at their parents" writes Mat Rice, President of Ablaze Ministries publishers of [Raising Saints](#).

Ablaze Families creates resources and community for parents who want to give their kids a love for Jesus while growing in the faith themselves. We weren't meant to do this on our own; God meant for us to be in community and to find support and encouragement through one another! Join Ablaze's online community for parents for parents, **The Village!** It is free at ablaze.us/the_village



Catholic Apps



Book Suggestions



Find [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 do I know what my calling is?

Grades 5 & 6: "Venture" by Pflaum Publishing

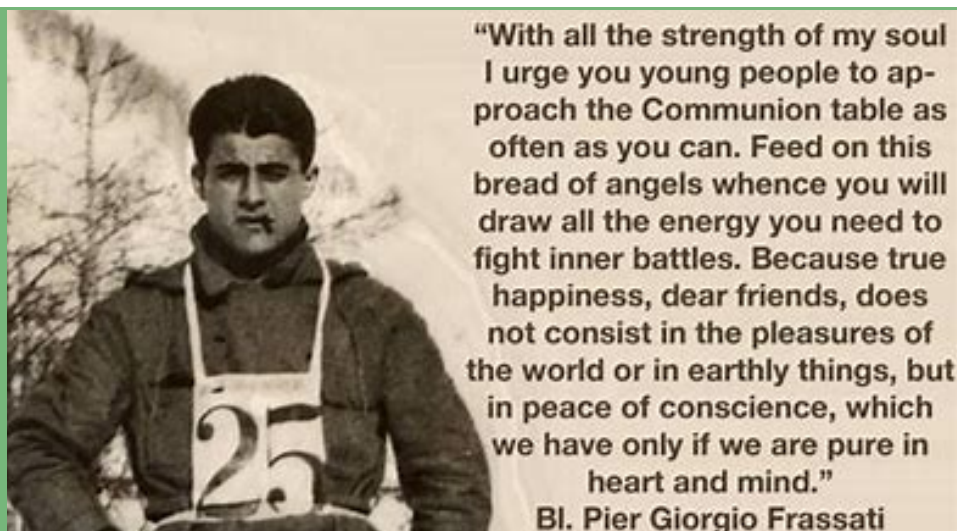
Grades 7 & 8: "Visions" by Pflaum Publishing

Ascension Presents // [What's Your Calling?](#) -- video (5:41)

Ascension Presents // [Pray, Discern, Do it](#) -- video (6:21)

WhatsMyCalling // [Explore](#) -- website

Pints With Aquinas // [Responding to God's Grace](#) -- video (6:59)



Adolescence

High School, Grades 9-12

Characteristics of Adolescents



Question: How do I know what my calling is?

Ascension Presents // [What's Your Calling?](#) -- video (5:41)

Ascension Presents // [Pray, Discern, Do it](#) -- video (6:21)

WhatsMyCalling // [Explore](#) -- website

Pints With Aquinas // [Responding to God's Grace](#) -- video (6:59)



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

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: How do I listen to Jesus?

"Seeds" by Pflaum Publishing

Living Faith // [January Kids Calendar](#)

FORMED // [How to Keep Your Kids Catholic](#) -- video (41:00)

Characteristics of Young Children

Childhood Elementary, Grades 1-5

Question: How do I answer when Jesus speaks to me?

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](#)

Living Faith // [January Kids Calendar](#)

The Kids Bulletin // [January 21, 2024](#)

FORMED // [How to Keep Your Kids Catholic](#) -- video (41:00)

EWTN // [My Time with Jesus: The Holy Mass](#) -- video (30:00)

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@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](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.

Ways to Pray

Catholic Resources// Methods of Praying with the Scripture



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

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

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



Sacred Art to Inspire You

COVER IMAGE

Kendal Brenneman//[Fishing Nets on the Beach](#)- Photograph
PxPixels

IMAGE BELOW

Connie Wendleton// [Jesus calling the Disciples](#) -- Painting



Music to Move You

- Francesca
LaRose//Francesca
LaRosa // [Psalm 19 - Your Words, Lord, are Spirit and Life](#), with lyrics --video
(4:25)
- Mercy Me // [Word of God Speak](#), with lyrics -- video
(3:08)
- Michael W. Smith//
[Ancient Words](#) -- video
(4:36)
- Jeremy Camp// [World of Life](#) -- video (3:04)

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

Very Reverend James Burkart, Pastor

discipleship@cgscchurch.org



Official Page:

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



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



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.

ENTHRONING THE BIBLE IN YOUR HOME

To show that God is at the center of their lives, many families enthrone the Bible, God's Word, in a visible place in their homes. By placing the Holy Scripture in a prominent place decorated with flowers and other religious objects, and by gathering at this point for daily prayer, families show that God is present and active through His Word. Families can easily enthrone their Bible by choosing a quiet and visible place for the Bible to be honored. The Bible may be placed on a table or shelf, and opened to a favorite passage or the readings of the day. Decorate the area around the Bible with a cloth, flowers, a candle, and/or anything that is meaningful to you and your family. After choosing a place and decorating it, use the following ritual prayer as you gather as a family to enthrone the Bible.

Things to prepare

- A Bible
- A small table or family altar (it can have a table cover some flowers and candles).

Ritual

When possible, the ritual can begin outside, at the front door of the house or outside of the main entrance of the room. A family member holds the Bible, slightly raised. The parent or other leader begins the celebration with the opening litany:

Leader: Jesus Christ our Lord, you are the Word of the Father.

All: Come to our home, Lord Jesus,

Leader: You became one with us to speak to us of the Father's love.

All: Come to our home, Lord Jesus,

Leader: You are the light that shines in the darkness.

All: Come to our home, Lord Jesus,

Leader: You save us from fear and break the bonds of sin and death.

All: Come to our home, Lord Jesus,

Leader: You come to guide our steps and lead us to God.

All: Come to our home, Lord Jesus,

Leader: You are the Word of eternal life.

All: Come to our home, Lord Jesus,

Leader: You fill us with the Holy Spirit.

All: Stay in our home, Lord Jesus,

**When everyone enters the house or room, they can sing an appropriate song.
Then someone in the family reads one of the following scriptures:**

- Matthew 4:17-23 Jesus calls and heals with the power of his Word.
- Mark 4:1-20 The Word is like the seed.
- Luke 4:14-21 Jesus proclaims the Word in Nazareth.
- John 1:10-14 Jesus is the Word of God and the light of the world.

After the reading, the leader places the Bible in the place prepared for it. They all bow deeply before the enthroned Bible.

Leader:

We have heard your words, Jesus. They give us joy and bring light and truth into our lives. Your presence gives us peace in our troubled and divided world. May your Word create in our hearts a deep desire for you.

May you be with us in our hearts and homes, in our community and country. Give us your Holy Spirit to help us understand your Word.

We now enthrone this Holy Bible among us. Make your Word the center of our lives. May your Word inspire everything we think, say and do. May your Word bind us in unity to one another and to you, today and always.

All: Amen.

**Everyone joins together to pray the Lord's Prayer.
Then everyone repeats after the leader:**

We promise to respect God's Word, we will read and reflect on it as a family of God.

May we find in her inspiration for our decisions, strength for our work, and comfort in suffering.

Jesus, help us to be faithful to our promise, you who live eternally. Amen.

The celebration concludes with a sign of peace.