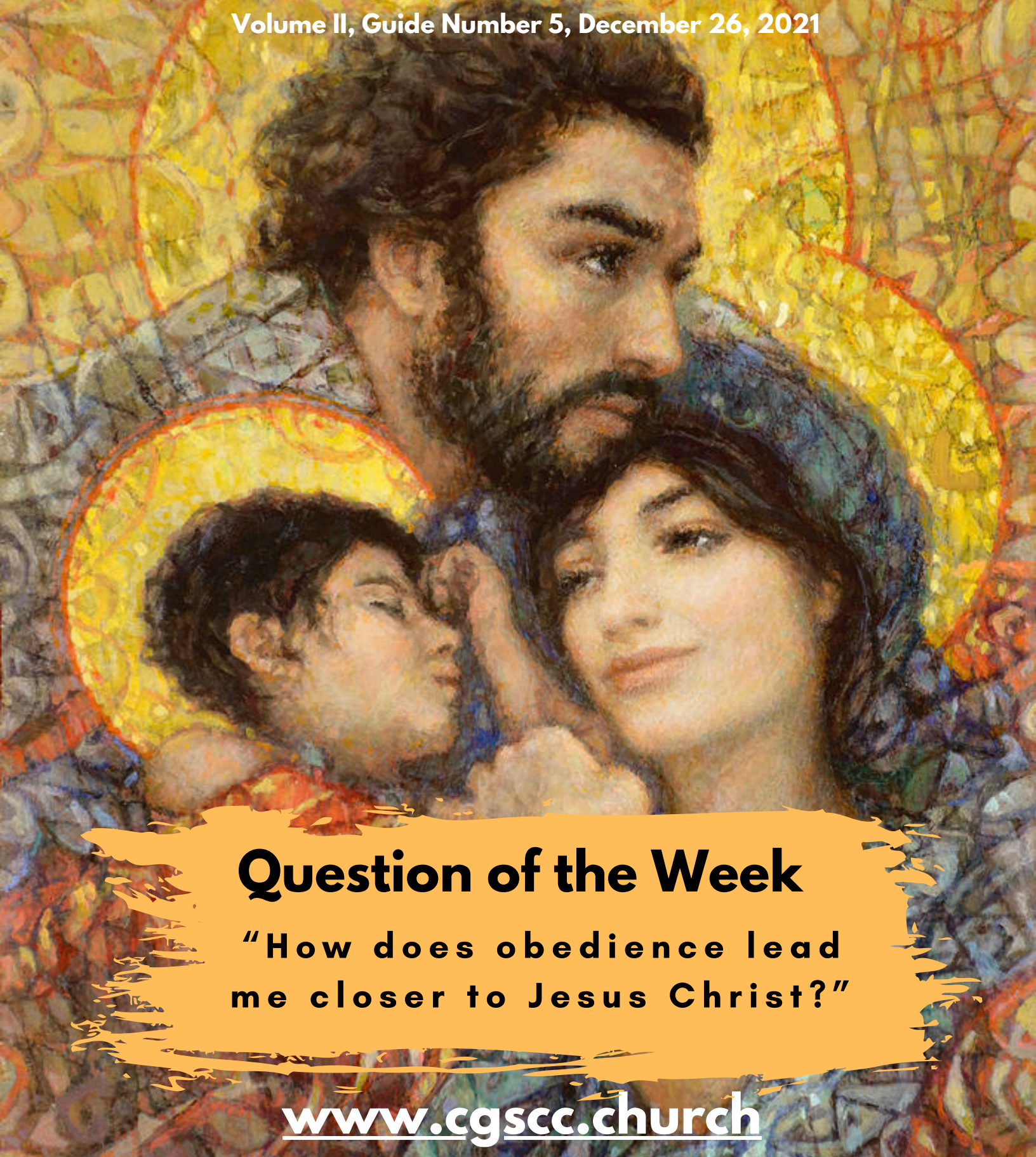


CGS FAMILY

SOLEMNITY OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

Volume II, Guide Number 5, December 26, 2021



Question of the Week

**"How does obedience lead
me closer to Jesus Christ?"**

www.cgscs.church

Welcome



**HELLO,
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

What does it mean to be "obedient?"

In today's Gospel, we hear about how Jesus "was obedient to Mary and Joseph." To obey is to follow a request or command given by someone who has rightful authority over us. Sometimes we do not like to be obedient because it means we must do things as someone else tells us, not as we might want to do. We want freedom to do things our own way. The key here is understanding why it is important—and even necessary—for us to follow the orders of one who has a right to give us commands for our own benefit, and when it is proper to obey those commands.

Jesus, though he was the Son of God, was obedient to his parents and to God, his Father. In fact, it was his obedience even unto death that saved us. This week, let us together explore the happiness that is found when we practice loving obedience to God and to those who have legitimate and proper authority over us.

Ivana T. Meshell

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

DISCIPLESHIP@CGSCC.CHURCH



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

This season, we are exploring the Big Idea

Who is Jesus Christ?

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

First Reading: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28

Psalm 128:1-2, 3 4-5 or Psalm 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10.

Second Reading: Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24

Gospel: Luke 2:41-52

Additional options for studying and discussing the Word of God.

Opening the Word by FORMED

Sunday Connection by Loyola Press

Children's Liturgy of the Word by CatholicTV.org

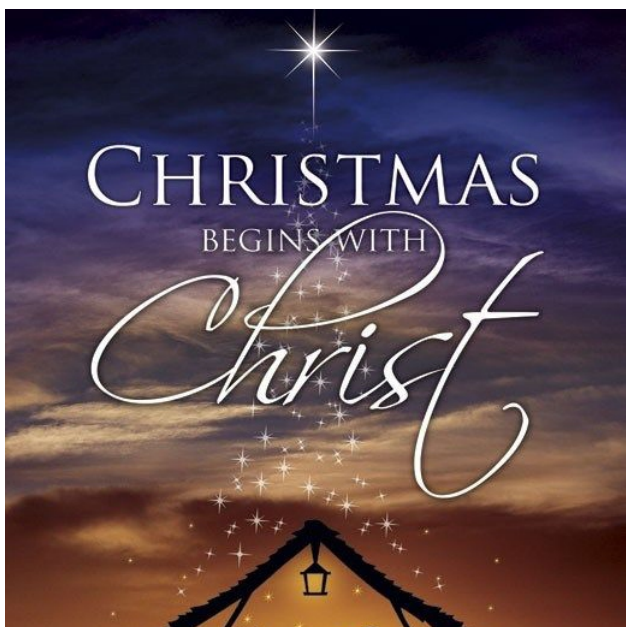
WE LEARN & BECOME DISCIPLES TOGETHER

Question of the Week

How does obedience lead me closer to Jesus Christ?

Opening Prayer

CONNECT with our GOD



- Let's start with the The Sign of Cross.
- In your own words, ask the Holy Spirit to be present as we gather so share our faith (Prayer to the Holy Spirit).
- Listen to the Lord speaking to you as someone reads out loud the Gospel for this week.
- Listen to each other as everyone shares what in the Gospel caught his or her attention.
- Pray the "Glory be..."

For more on how to manage a group discussion, [click here](#).

Step One

CONNECT with our daily LIVES

- What do we usually mean when we talk about "obedience" or to obey someone?
- How do you see obedience in service of everyday life of our society? Is obedience seen as a good thing or a bad thing? Can you say why?

Getting Started

How to use this Guide.

Why are we doing this?

Step Two

CONNECT with Scripture and Tradition

In the HOLY SCRIPTURE we read about...

- Obedience to God's commandments is an expression of love for Jesus John 14:15-21
- Obedient person listens and acts on the words from the authority set by God Luke 6:46-49
- Obedient children are holy in their conduct 1 Peter 1:13-16

In the Catechism of the Catholic Church, we read:

- Human response to God is called "the obedience of faith" 143
- The Virgin Mary most perfectly embodies the obedience of faith. 148
- Christ chose to be born and grow up in the bosom of the holy family of Joseph and Mary. 1655
- Jesus' obedience to his mother and legal father fulfills the fourth commandment perfectly 532

As a Domestic Church (your household) or Small Faith Group, pray and read through some of the suggested Scriptures & Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) references

Discussion Questions

1. The boy Jesus remained in Jerusalem, but His parents didn't know this. Have you have any such surprises in your life? Describe one.
2. Obedience is a reflection of the loving trust of those who are in authority. Do you agree with this statement? How do you model and teach trust in God in your family? How do you help your children or other subordinate to grow in trust of each other and you?
3. God entrusted parents to each other and children to their parents. How is the Holy Family guiding you grow in unity with your spouse? What are some ways you practice listening and guiding your children to grow in obedience to God's call for their lives?

[Go Deeper](#) if you want more Questions, Scriptures, and Catechism References.

Reflection Question

Do I model obedience to God to my family, friends and the wider world? Is my family living in obedience to God through prayer, Sacramental life, and charitable work?

RESOURCES FOR ALL AGES

For related information, activities, and age-appropriate resources, turn to the *Resources for All Ages* section of this Guide. You may use as many or as few as you want to. Adapt to your situation and your household. You can even spread these activities over the span of the entire week.

Step Three

CONNECT with OTHERS... Commit // Action

What are you willing and ready to do to grow in obedience to God and respect to your parents? What are you ready to do to guide your family in growing in obedience to God?

Practical Activities

For the Individual

Spend time before the Blessed Sacrament in the Church.

At Christ the Good Shepherd, the Blessed Sacrament is exposed to the faithful to see for adoration and prayer on the first Wednesday of each month from 6:00-8:00pm and on the First Friday of each month for the entire day. You may also visit any other day and spend time with the Lord in his presence in the tabernacle.

For Couples

Remember how your relationship got started.

Pull out your photos and recall how your shared story started. Talk about when and how you have found Jesus in your relationship. Civilly married couples are strongly encouraged to seek marriage in the Church--called a *convalidation*. This simple, yet beautiful rite of marriage constitutes one's marriage as a true sacramental union. It involves the willingness of both husband and wife to make a new decision to enter into a valid Catholic marriage and enables them to return to receiving holy Communion. To begin preparation, contact Selma DeMarco, 346-236-6444, or sdemarco@cgscc.church.

For the Domestic Church

Play "Get to Know Yourself" Charades

Together with the whole family brainstorm various situations in your household and write each on a separate piece of paper. For fun add some funny, even impossible situations, like alien invasion. Fold and put in a container. Everyone takes turn pulling one paper and acting out with spoken words one family member in the given situation. All must guess who this person is. This will help you know how other family members see you and it will help you recognize areas of your life that need a change. Little ones will need a bit help. At the end of the game help everyone summarize what they learn about themselves.

Missionary Mindset

Go on pilgrimage to a church you have never visited.

Like the Holy Family that traveled to Jerusalem every year for Passover, take your family to Mass to another parish. There are many wonderful and beautiful parishes in our archdiocese and in the state of Texas! Spend time enjoying grounds, sacred art, and people. Most of all find Jesus in the tabernacle. Every time the red lantern next to the tabernacle is lit, this is the sign that Lord is present and waiting for you.

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 sing of peace with each other.
-

A Christmas Season Prayer

Glory to God in the highest!

Precious Lord, Jesus,
We adore you with profound love and
We rejoice in the celebration of Your birth.
Your love for us is unfathomable,
it is glorious & awe-inspiring.
You chose to come and live among us,
born into poverty, rejection, and humility.
Yet your mother knew whom she bore,
Her heart was filled with the tenderest love
as she adored her child and her God.



Help us, dear Lord.
to come to love you with the heart of your mother.
Invite us to adore you with St. Joseph and the poor shepherds.
Reveal to us the glorious power of your birth
and change our lives on account of this perfect gift of yourself.

We love You, Lord Jesus.
Help us to love you with all our hearts.
Newborn savior of the World,
We place our trust in you.
Mother Mary and St. Joseph,
Pray for us and for the whole world. 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 does obedience to God lead me closer to Jesus Christ?

RESOURCES FOR ALL AGES

POINTS OF UNDERSTANDING

Points of Understanding clearly state the Church's teaching. They can be used as a tool for conversation starters, family discussions, and as a means to unite the family or small

Faith Group under one theme. If this interests, you:

[Points of Understanding for this week](#)

[More information on using the Points of Understanding](#)

1. 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](#)

Recommended Print Bibles

For Children: [Catholic Children's Bible](#) by St. Mary's Press. Purchase [directly from the publisher](#) or look online for other vendors.

For for Teens/Youth [Catholic Youth Bible](#) by St. Mary's Press. Purchase [directly from the publisher](#) or look online for other vendors.

For Families: [Family Connections Bible](#) by St. Mary's Press. Purchase directly from the publisher, or look online for [other vendors](#).

Catholics use the **New American Bible Revised Edition** (NABRE) as the translation for Mass readings. There are many acceptable versions of NABRE ([learn more](#)) as well as [other approved translations](#). You may purchase from any vendor and we do have some basic editions on hand at the parish office at no charge—available upon request.

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](#)

Common Prayers and Formulas to Learn by Heart

[Familiar prayers](#) and a [chart showing at what age level they should be learned](#).

Formed

Our parish subscribes to a library of online resources called Formed. It is free for you to use.

Register at www.formed.org - (use Parish Code: WXF2JZ) Need help? [Watch this video](#).

2. Age-Specific Resources

Early Childhood (Ages 3-5)

"**Seeds**" by Pflaum Publishing available through the parish office.
Gospel Reading and Reflection for Kids // [Luke 2:41-52](#) -video (2:33)
Catholic Kids Media - [The Nativity!](#) --video (6:54)
EWTN // [My Time with Jesus - Christmas Special](#) -video (23:21)
Abe & Liza Philip // [Ephesians 6:1 Song - Children Obey Your Parents in the Lord](#) -video (0:36)

Childhood (Elementary, Grades 1-5)

Grades K-1: "**Promise**" by Pflaum Publishing and Grades 2,3 &4: "**Good News**" by Pflaum Publishing available through the parish office.
Gospel Reading and Reflection for Kids // [Luke 2:41-52](#) -video (2:33)
Catholic Kids Media - [The Nativity!](#) --video (6:54)
EWTN // [My Time with Jesus - Christmas Special](#) -video (23:21)
Sensus Fidelium // [Virtue of Obedience for Catholic Children](#) --(11:31)

Early Adolescence (Junior High, Grades 6-8)

Grades 5 & 6: "**Venture**" by Pflaum Publishing and Grades 7 & 8: "**Visions**" by Pflaum Publishing.
Sensus Fidelium // [The Virtue of Obedience: Cheerful Chats for Catholic Children](#) --(11:31)
Life Teen // [The Feast of the Holy Family](#) -video (9:42)
Ascension Presents // [Cardinal Burke: The Family is a Little Church](#) -vid (3:42)

Adolescence (High School, Grades 9-12)

Life Teen // [The Feast of the Holy Family](#) -video (9:42)
Catholic Productions // [Honor Your Father and Your Mother](#) -video (8:21)
Catholic Seahawks // [The Virtue of Obedience](#) -video (3:51)

Adulthood

3 Minute Theology // [The Holy Family](#) -video (3:18)
Heart to Heart, A Catholic Media Ministry // [Ornaments of Grace- The Christ Child](#) --(6:08)
Catholic Culture // [A Christian must be a 'witness to obedience,'](#) --article
Bishop Barron // [On Biblical Family Values](#) -video (8:42)
Ascension presents // [Family brings out the worst in you \(so that God can heal it\)](#) -video (9:09)
FORMED // [Into the Breach: Episode 5: Family](#) -video (13:00)
FORMED // [Me and My House: Cultivating Your Sanctuary](#) -video (10:52)
FORMED // [Your Relationship with Your Young Children](#) - video (20:27)
Bishop Barron // [How to Keep Our Kids Catholic](#) -video (35:27)
Catholic Seahawks // [The Virtue of Obedience](#) -video (3:51)

ATTENTION PARENTS!

Our new season of Faith Formation began on Sunday, November 28, 2021.

Age specific books and materials by **Pflaum Publishing Company** for early childhood through 8th grade are now available for your use together with this Guide.

Reserve your copies by contacting Jackie Coba in the parish office or by email. 346.236.6459 ex. 342 jcoba@cgscc.church

General Resources

Counseling, Grief Support & Spiritual Direction

Our parish offers [Rejoice Counseling](#) for individuals and families for a variety of issues and needs. We also offer [Grief Support](#) ministry for those who have lost loved ones and [Spiritual Direction](#) for anyone interested. Follow the links or inquire through the parish office.

Music to Move You

John Francis Wade // O Come All Ye Faithful Traditional Choir with lyrics

Michael Cooke and Erika Mae Zabala // Hark! The Herald Angels Sing with lyrics

Dix/Stainer // Child of the poor and What Child Is This with lyrics

Libera // Once in Royal David's City with lyrics

Paraphrased into English by James Chadwick // Angels We Have Heard on High with lyrics

Country House Media // Lord, I'm Amazed (The Holy Family Song)

Sacred Art to Inspire You!

COVER ART FEATURED: Smith Catholic Art; Fine Art America // [Holy Family of Nazareth](#)

[William Holman Hunt // The Finding of the Saviour in the Temple, 1860, source Wikimedia](#)

[James Tissot // Jesus Found in the Temple, 1886-1894, source Wikimedia](#)

[John Everett Millais // Christ in the House of His Parents, 1849 -1850, source Wikimedia](#)

[Heinrich Hofmann // Christ in Gethsemane, 1886, source Wikimedia](#)

[Titian // Crucifixion, 1558, source Wikimedia](#)

[Fritz von Uhde // The Mealtime Prayer, 1885, source Wikimedia](#)

[Alfred Agache // Obedience, 1902, source Wikimedia](#)

Seasonal Prayer

Catholic Share // 10 Beautiful Prayers to Say this Christmas Season

Jesuit Source // [Christmas Prayers](#)

Sacramental Resources

The [sacraments section of our website](#) is being completely updated. You will find helpful material is being placed on our website beginning the week of December 20.

As the information is uploaded in the coming days, you can go to the sacraments page of our website and browse for the most current information. Questions may be directed to Selma DeMarco, Associate Director of Sacraments and Discipleship.

WE ARE THE CHURCH

What Makes us Catholic?

Both Easter and Christmas are followed by an octave: an eight-day period during which the feast is celebrated. The eighth day is also called the octave and days in between are said to be "within the octave." From Christmas Day until January 1st, the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, is the Octave of Christmas. The Christmas octave liturgy gives us clues that every day within the octave is treated the same festivity as the original feast day of the Nativity of our Lord. The octave gives us time to impress upon our souls the mysteries, joys and graces of the principal feasts of the Church year.

Learn more:
The Octave of Christmas.



HOW HAVE YOU SEEN GOD PRESENT AND ACTIVE IN YOUR LIFE THIS WEEK?

Word of the Week - Obedience

Obedience (Lat. obêdire, "to hearken to", hence "to obey") is the complying with a command or precept. It is here regarded not as a transitory and isolated act but rather as a virtue or principle of righteous conduct. It is then said to be the moral habit by which one carries out the order of his superior with the precise intent of fulfilling the injunction. St. Thomas Aquinas considers the obligation of obedience as an obvious consequence of the subordination established in the world by natural and positive law. To know more follow [New Advent](#); [Catholic Encyclopedia](#); [Obedience](#)

Saints of the Month learn about them!

More for your Domestic Church

A Domestic Church is your household of believers in Jesus Christ. View a short video on what is the Domestic Church. See also this reference in the Catechism of the Catholic Church: CCC 1655-1858 and our Glossary of Terms. There is so much at CGS for your Domestic Church! See our website, social media pages, YouTube, and this week "**FLOCKNOTE**" for all things CGS!

"Faith Groups" on our Website

Find resources for your family, including how to use this Guide, family traditions from other parishioners, FAQs, how to use the Points of Understanding, a Glossary of Terms and more. Visit cgscddogh.org/faith-groups OR scan the QR code on the right with your smart phone.

Join a small Faith Group in our parish. Contact discipleship@cgscs.church





Our Mission as a Roman Catholic Community is to proclaim the teachings of Jesus Christ as declared in the scriptures and shown in the sacred tradition of the church. We are empowered by the Holy Spirit to know, love, and serve God and our neighbors.

WE WANT OUR PARISHIONERS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THIS GUIDE!

How is this Guide working for you and your family?

Show us what your family is doing with these Guides!

Share an idea, a resource or picture/video of what you are doing in your Domestic Church.

DISCIPLESHIP@CGSCC.CHURCH

BECOMING OUR "BEST PARISH EVER!"



Text CGS to 84576 to join us on Flocknote
You will receive emails & texts from CGS



CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC COMMUNITY



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The contents of this Guide are in accordance with the teachings of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Curriculum Framework for Lifelong Faith Formation of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston under the pastoral care of Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, Archbishop.

From Our Clergy & Staff at CGS



May the Lord
BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU

May the Lord
MAKE HIS FACE SHINE ON YOU
AND BE GRACIOUS TO YOU

May the Lord
TURN HIS FACE TOWARD YOU
AND GIVE YOU PEACE

Numbers 6:24-26



Merry Christmas Season & Happy, Holy 2022!

