

CGS FAMILY

SOLEMNITY OF EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Volume II, Guide Number 6 * January 2, 2022



Question of the Week

How do I come to know Jesus
Christ as the true source of
lasting peace?

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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

Jesus is our peace!

In this week's gospel we see that the very birth of Jesus immediately sets up a contrast between those who joyfully welcome him and those who seek to destroy him (a phenomenon that will continue until his crucifixion). It was a common ancient belief that the appearance of a new star occurred at the time of a ruler's birth. Herod immediately thought this news to be a serious threat to his power and authority, whereas the Magi traveled from far away and endured great hardships just to see him. Despite the status and wealth they had in their own community, the Magi recognized that the way to happiness is to seek Jesus, who is the source of lasting peace. Herod, in contrast, is so obsessed with preserving his status and power, he overlooks the One who could give him more happiness and peace than he could ever dream of.

The birth of Jesus leaves us with a decision to make: Do we accept Jesus Christ as the true source of peace? Or rather, do we reject him, ignore him, leave him out of our daily decisions and choices? He did not leave us with a third option. He did not intend to.

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?

The Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord Readings and Podcasts

from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalm: Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

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 do I come to know Jesus Christ as the true source of lasting peace?

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 their attention.
- Pray the "Glory be..."

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



Step One

CONNECT with our daily LIVES

1. What are some ways the rulers of the world achieve peace?
2. What are some of the attractions in the world that fight for our attention? How is the star of Bethlehem like that for the three kings? How is it different?

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...

- Jesus appears to His disciples bringing peace John 14:27, John 20:19-23
- God's justifying action in Jesus Christ is a declaration of peace Colossians 1:19-20, Romans 5:1-2
- Joy of Jesus' presence moves us to thanksgiving and prayer that leads to peace that rules our minds, hearts and actions Philippians 4:4-9

In the Catechism of the Catholic Church, we read:

- The Epiphany is the manifestation of Jesus as Messiah of Israel, Son of God and Savior of the world. 528
- Respect for and development of human life require peace. 2304
- Earthly peace is the image and fruit of the peace of Christ 2305

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. In the Gospel we see two kings: one wrapped in humility and simplicity, the other in fear and suspicion. How have you experienced the qualities of these two kingdoms in your family, professional life or wider society?
2. Magi's gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh symbolize the Kingship of Jesus, true God, and true man, as well as His path of suffering and death on the road to His throne. What are some important qualities of building peace Jesus modeled through His life, Passion, Death and Resurrection?
3. The Magi show us that all nations are called to humble themselves before Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace. Imagine that everyone honored and obeyed Jesus Christ as the true ruler. How would family dynamics change? How would workplace and schools change? How would social order change?
4. God chose His Son to be born in the conditions of extreme poverty identifying with the poorest and most vulnerable. How is the newborn King moving your heart to action?

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

Reflection Question

What do I search for in life? Do I have my priorities ordered according to the guidance Jesus modeled? Am I a good steward of the time, talent and treasure God gave me? Do I persevere in growing the peace of Christ within me and my family?

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 lean more on Jesus Christ as the lasting source of peace within my family and other communities?

Practical Activities

For an Individual

Invite a neighbor to share the Three Kings Cake.

Some prefer a store-bought others like homemade cake ([Three Kings Cake](#) YUM!). Invite someone and share the cake and the story of Epiphany of the Lord.

For a Couple

Visit Nativity scenes at surrounding parishes

Enjoy beauty and diversity of various Nativity scene. Remember to spend time with Eucharistic King in silence and peace with Him and each other. For a list of parishes in our archdiocese follow the link [A-Z Listing of Parishes](#). Plan which parish to visit and on the ride talk about what the peace of Christ means for your relationship.

For a Family

Bless Your Home with Chalking of the Doors

Epiphany (also known as Twelfth Night, Theophany, or Three Kings Day) marks the occasion of a time-honored Christian tradition of "chalking the doors." Do the Epiphany Chalk Blessing of your home. Packets of chalk and instructions are available for pickup in the church or find get any stick of ordinary chalkboard chalk, [learn what it is](#) and [use this prayer](#).

Missionary Mindset

Share a movie about finding peace in Christ

Invite someone who stepped away from the life of Faith and share the beautiful story of the life of St. Augustine. His saying "Our hearts are restless until they rest in Thee.", reminds us where the peace of heart comes from. To access the movie for FREE viewing follow the link [FORMED // Restless Heart: The Confessions of Augustine](#) -video (2:13:35)



On entering the house
they saw the child
with Mary, His mother.
They prostrated themselves
and did Him homage.
Then they opened their
treasures and offered him
gifts of gold,
frankincense and myrrh.

Matthew 2:11

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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.
-

Epiphany Prayer

Dear Jesus, as You led the Three Kings to You by the light of a star, please draw us ever closer to You by the light of Faith. Help us to desire You as ardently as they did. Give us the grace to overcome all the obstacles that keep us far from You. May we, like them, have something to give You when we appear before You. 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 come to know Jesus Christ as the true source of lasting peace?

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](#)

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. Reserve your hard copies by contacting Jackie in the parish office; pick up at your convenience.

EWTN // My Time with Jesus: Epiphany -video (25:18)

Childhood (Elementary, Grades 1-5)

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

Grades 2,3 &4: "**Good News**" by Pflaum Publishing. Reserve your hard copies by contacting Jackie in the parish office; pick up at your convenience.

Catholic Kids Media // Magi! - Epiphany cycle C --video (1:57)

EWTN // My Time with Jesus: Epiphany -video (25:18)

Early Adolescence (Junior High, Grades 6-8)

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

Grades 7 & 8: "**Visions**" by Pflaum Publishing. Reserve your hard copies by contacting Jackie in the parish office; pick up at your convenience.

Ascension Presents // The Feast of the Epiphany -video (3:20)

Life Teen // The Feast of Epiphany -video (7:52)

Bible Project // Shalom - Peace --video (3:48)

Life Teen // Who would Jesus hang out with? --video (3:31)

Life Teen // Yours Are The Hands -video (2:11)

Adolescence (High School, Grades 9-12)

Ascension Presents // The Feast of the Epiphany -video (3:20)

Life Teen // The Feast of Epiphany -video (7:52)

Bible Project // Shalom - Peace --video (3:48)

Life Teen // Who would Jesus hang out with? --video (3:31)

Life Teen // Yours Are The Hands -video (2:11)

Adulthood

3 Minute Theology // Epiphany -video (3:53)

Ascension Presents // The Feast of the Epiphany -video (3:20)

All Saints Parish // Epiphany ~ Peace on Earth -video reflection (1:52)

Brian Holdsworth // Do Catholics Have a Relationship With Jesus? --video (6:51)

Ascension Presents // Finding Deep Peace With Jesus in Prayer -video (4:58)

Ascension Presents // Finding Balance in Your Walk with Jesus -video (8:41)

Catholic Mom // Blessed Are the Peacemakers -article

Bishop Barron // Sunday Sermon: You Can't Go Back to the Way Things Were -video (12:51)

ATTENTION PARENTS!

Our new season of Faith Formation has begun with the First Sunday of Advent. 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@cgscscc.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

IFrancesca LaRosa // Psalm 72 – Lord, Every Nation On Earth Will Adore You
Anne Murray // We Three Kings with lyrics
The African Children's Choir // Light of the World, by Tim Hughes with lyrics
John Francis Wade // O Come All Ye Faithful with lyrics
Monica Scott Music // Prince of Peace – Children's Christmas song with lyrics
%-year old Claire Ryann Crosby and dad // Peace in Christ

Sacred Art to Inspire You!

[James Tissot // Journey of the Magi, c. 1894, source Wikimedia](#)
[James Tissot // The Magi in the House of Herod, 1886-1894, source Wikimedia](#)
[James Tissot // The Adoration of the Magi, 1886-1894, source Wikimedia](#)
[William Holman Hunt // The Light of the World, 1851-1856, source Wikimedia](#)
[James Tissot // Jesus Goes Up Alone onto a Mountain to Pray, 1886-1894, source Wikimedia](#)

Prayer

Fatima Apparition // [Angel Of Peace Prayer](#), 1916

3. 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?

Catholics reverence the Most Holy Name of Jesus.

Mary and Joseph did not choose the name for their Baby, God did. The Archangel Gabriel announced to Mary the name God chose for His son (Luke 1:31). Joseph had a dream in which the angel told him the name of Mary's child (Matthew 1:21). Saint Paul, later, writes about the necessity of honoring the name of Jesus (Philippians 2:5-11). Why?

Learn more in our "[Go Deeper](#)" section.



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

Word of the Week - Epiphany

"Epiphany" means "manifestation." It comes from Greek roots that mean "to show, to display" (phainein) and "on, to" (epi-). An epiphany is thus a time when something is shown, displayed, or manifested to an audience. At the Epiphany of the Lord Jesus is manifested as the King of all nations.

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 cgscdogh.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@cgscchurch.org





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.

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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.