

CGS FAMILY

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Volume II, Guide Number 10 , January 30, 2022

MISSION

VI

VALUES

**How Can Discovering My Purpose
in Life Bring Me Closer to Jesus
Christ?**

www.cgscchurch.com

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

Making "God First" Choices

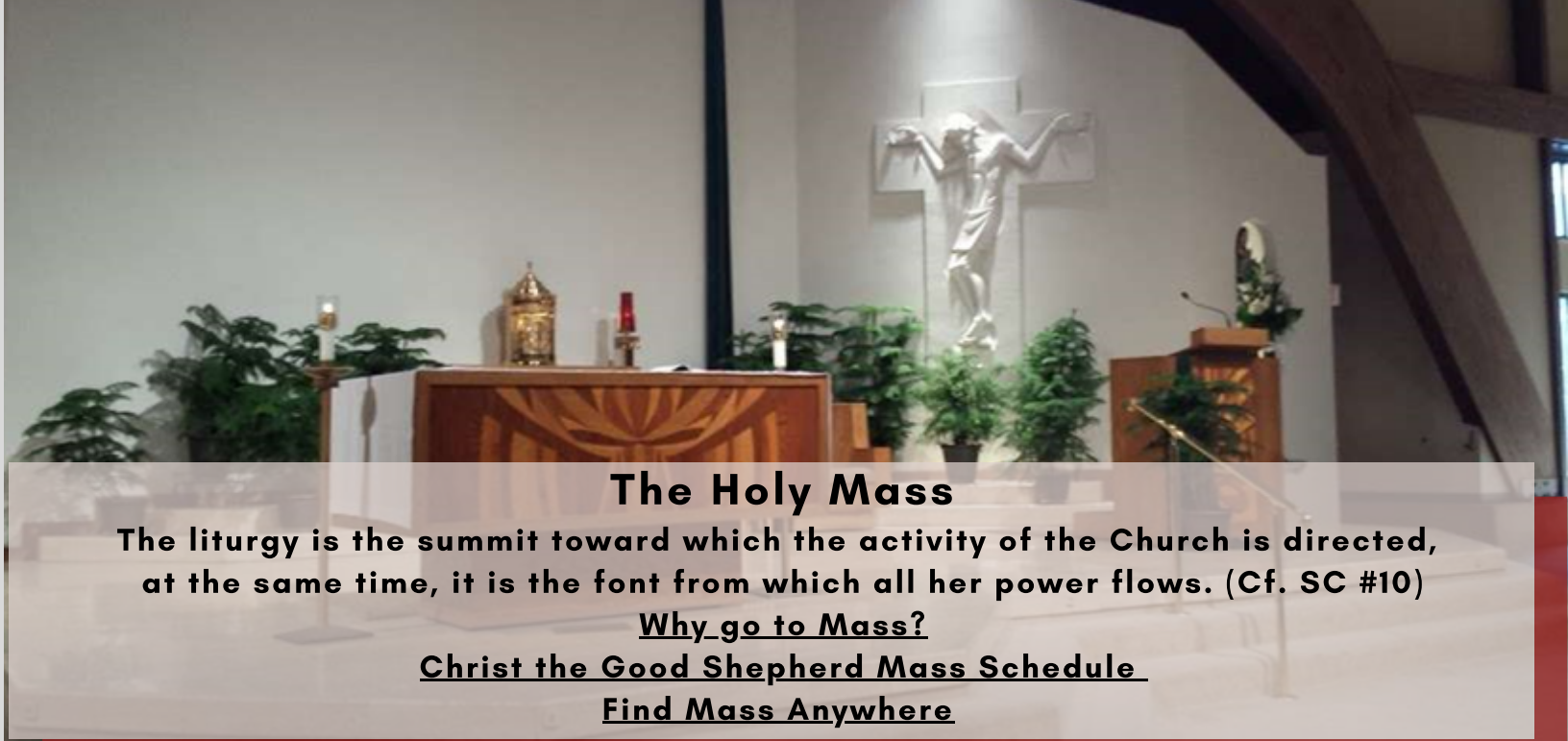
Modern life presents us with a dizzying amount of options and choices. There are many things we must do and many we want to do. Deciding which ones to say "no" to requires a heroic measure of discipline. To be successful, we must determine what we really want out of life, and consider what the outcome will be if we wander aimlessly--prey to every distraction--rather than choose deliberately.

The decision to form one's conscience and character in the faith of Jesus Christ cannot be one option among many. If we believe that Jesus Christ is Lord of our lives, then conforming ourselves to his likeness must always take precedence over everything else. If "God first" is not the default position, if God and the things of God are not given first priority, then the world will conform us to itself rather than to Christ. God then becomes and marginal figure (and much less relevant) in our lives. In today's society we see generations of grown-up children who have not learned to worship or to make life choices based on the teachings of Christ and his Church. We can continue down this path to our detriment, or we as individuals and as a people can make different choice.

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?

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time readings and podcasts

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

First Reading: Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 71:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 15-17

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:31–13:13

Gospel: Luke 4:21-30

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 can discovering my purpose in life bring 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 Sunday (see previous page for links to Scripture readings 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. Name someone you know whom you believe lives or lived life with the right purpose? What is significant about his or her life that makes you believe this?
2. Have I discovered what is my purpose in life? How do I know?
Share thoughts with one another.

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...

- In living the New Commandment, we take up our crosses and follow Jesus, so we find and live our purpose John 13:31-35, Matthew 16:24-26
- The three goals of our life's purpose are to know (John 17: 3), love (Mark 12:29-31) and serve (Matthew 25:40) God
- We are sent to share and grow God's Kingdom Matthew 28:16-20

In the Catechism of the Catholic Church, we read:

- God made us to share in His own life, so only in Him we find true happiness #1 & #27
- God put us in the world to know, to love, and to serve him, and so to come to paradise. #1721
- The baptized in Christ are called to proclaim Him to the world. #1816

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 today's Gospel, Jesus claims the mission for which God sent him--to proclaim the Word of God. Are you open to God's call in your life, no matter what form that may take? In what ways do you lean on Jesus to understand how your talents and gifts, loves and desires, capacities and responsibilities influence your life's purpose?
2. Today's Gospel shows us that familiar settings are often the most difficult for sharing the wisdom of Christ. How have you experienced this? Who are some people you have the most difficulty sharing faith with, and why? What could you do about it?

[Go Deeper for more--find different options each week!](#)

Reflection Question

How does Jesus' love for me help me to respond by seeking to know, love, and serve God? In what ways am I striving to know, love, and serve God in my life right now?

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 is one thing you are willing to do allow Jesus Christ to help you discover and live your life's purpose? What is one thing you are willing to change with friends, at school or work, or in any encounter with another person, to express self-giving love of Jesus Christ?

Practical Activities

For the Individual

Practice Being and Everyday Prophet

Think of a short statement you might share with anyone that would teach them, or remind them of a simple truth about God. Then add this to your everyday vocabulary. For example: "God loves you!" at the end of your texts and emails, and any time you part from someone.

For Couples

Share a Glass of Wine and Make an Inventory of Your Love

Use 1 Corinthians 13 as a magnifying glass to discover how you might strengthen your love. You might enjoy leaning on each other back-to-back, so you reassure the other through the touch, but have no eye contact. It's useful to agree on uninterrupted time of sharing (3-5 minute). Sip your wine and practice patiently listening the other. Remember you are making an inventory of love, not a list of complaints.

For the Domestic Church

Enjoy a Scavenger Hunt for Sacramentals

Sacramentals remind us of God's love and presence in our everyday life and help us seek him. Have each child make a list of all sacramentals they might find in your home. ([Learn more.](#)) For even more fun, make it a competition. Enjoy your time together!

Missionary Mindset

Write an encouragement card to a family member who has stopped practicing the Faith

Practice tender kindness as you focus on what unite you rather than what keeps you apart. Don't forget to tell them that the Church misses them and prays for them every day.

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.
-

Prayer of St. Anselm

O Lord my God.
Teach my heart this day
where and how to find you.
You have made me and re-made me,
and you have bestowed on me
all the good things I possess,
and still I do not know you.
I have not yet done
that for which I was made.
Teach me to seek you,
for I cannot seek you
unless you teach me,
or find you
unless you show yourself to me.
Let me seek you in my desire;
let me desire you in my seeking.
Let me find you by loving you;
let me love you when I find you.

—St. Anselm of Canterbury

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 discovering my purpose in life bring 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. See note on this page.

Brother Francis Online.com // Following in His Footsteps -set of 9 very short videos (4:30)

Childhood (Elementary, Grades 1-5)

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

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

Grades 5 & 6: "Venture" by Pflaum Publishing. See note on this page.

1-2-3 Catholic // 3 Goals in Our Life Purpose -video (6:36)

Kingdom of God // Search me, O God, prayer in song with lyrics

Early Adolescence (Junior High, Grades 6-8)

We recommend all Catholic youth have their own youth bible. See previous page for suggestions or contact us for help.

Grades 5 & 6: "Venture" by Pflaum Publishing

Grades 7 & 8: "Visions" by Pflaum Publishing. See note on this page.

Catholic Central // Purpose and Meaning of Life -video (6:36)

Catholic Link // 6 Ways To Find Your Purpose In Life -text

Catholic Minute // Living A Life of Meaning: Roman Catholic Beliefs Explained -video (4:12)

Adolescence (High School, Grades 9-12)

We recommend all Catholic youth have their own youth bible. See previous page for suggestions or contact us for help.

Catholic Central // Purpose and Meaning of Life -video (6:36)

Ascension Press // Where Am I Going? --video (2:58)

Catholic Minute // Living A Life of Meaning: Roman Catholic Beliefs Explained -video (4:12)

Adulthood

Ivana T. Meshell // Six Questions to Ask Before You Get Married-(article)

AutAscension Presents // Developing a Clear Vision in Life -video (7:12)

Real Life Catholic // Don't Feel Like You're Living Your Purpose Perfectly? --video (1:00)

Catholic 365 // Purpose of Life: The Catholic Gospel -article

3MC // What is man in light of the faith? --video (3:22)

Breaking In The Habit // Priest Reveals 3 Steps to Finding Purpose in Life -video (6:58)

Ascension Presents // How to Discern Pretty Much Anything -video (11:22)

Ascension Presents // 3 Ways Parents Help Their Children Discern -video (8:50)

Bishop Barron // How to Live a Meaningful Life -video (10:02)

The Thomistic Institute // Does the Universe Have a Purpose? (Aquinas 101) --video (7:48)

ATTENTION PARENTS!

Age-specific materials for early childhood through 8th grade are now available for your use together with this Guide. They are easy to use and the cost is \$25.00 per set, per year.

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

Need help?
Just ask!

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

Francesca LaRosa // Psalm 71 - I Will Sing of Your Salvation

David Haas // You are Mine, with lyrics

Paul Inwood // Centre of My Life, with lyrics

Sarah Hart & Robert Feduccia // To Live with Him Forever, with lyrics

Justin Stretch // A New Commandment I give unto You, with lyrics

Bernadette Farrell // God Has Chosen Me, with lyrics

Audrey Assad // Be Thou My Vision, with lyrics

Sarah Hart // All That We Have Seen, with lyrics

Sacred Art to Inspire You!

All Sacred Art Currently on Formed (parish subscription free to our parishioners--register once, get access to all content) All Sacred Sacred Art - FORMED

Michelangelo // Prophet Jeremiah, 1508-1512, Sistine Chapel, Vatican, source Wikimedia

James Tissot // Jesus Teaches in the Synagogues, 1886-1894, source Wikimedia

Abraham van Dijck // The Prophet Elijah with the Widow of Zarephath and her Son, 1650-1672, Wikimedia

Pieter de Grebber // The prophet Elisha rejects the gifts of Naaman, 1637, source Wikimedia

James Tissot // The Brow of the Hill near Nazareth, 1886-1894, source Wikimedia

Henryk Siemiradzki // Nero's Torches, 1876, source Wikimedia

Prayers and Praying

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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?

On February 2nd Catholics celebrate the Feast of The Presentation of the Lord, known in secular society as "Groundhog Day" (due to a combination of many traditions over the centuries). In obedience to the Old Law, the Lord Jesus, the first-born, was presented in the Temple by St. Joseph and his Blessed Mother. This is another 'epiphany' celebration insofar as the Christ Child is revealed as the Messiah through the canticle and words of Simeon and the testimony of Anna the prophetess (Luke 2: 22-40). Christ is the light of the nations, hence the blessing and procession of candles on this day. Enjoy James Tissot's painting of The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple.

Wikimedia



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

Word of the Week - Discernment

Discernment is a time-honored practice in the Christian tradition. In essence, discernment is a decision-making process that honors the place of God's will in our lives. It is an interior search that seeks to align our own will with the will of God in order to learn what God is calling us to. Every choice we make, no matter how small, is an opportunity to align ourselves with God's will. Discover some tried-and-true pointers that can help you discern God's will in your life.

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@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.

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.