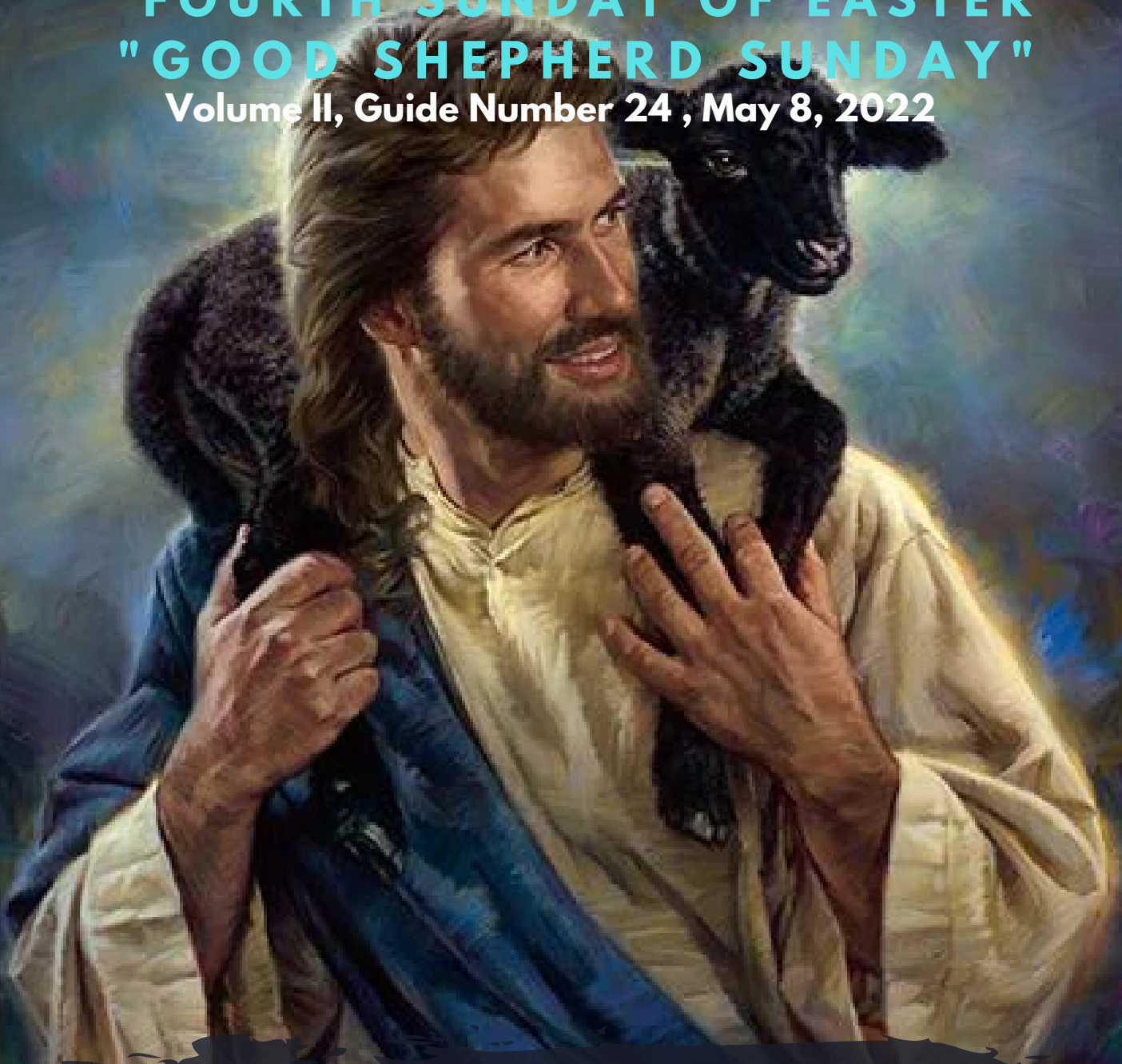


# CGS FAMILY

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
"GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY"

Volume II, Guide Number 24 , May 8, 2022



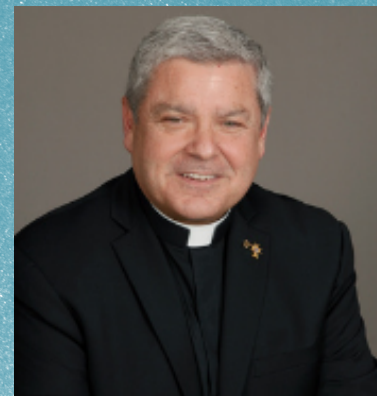
**How does hearing the voice of the Shepherd at Mass help us know and love Jesus Christ so that we may not perish but have eternal life?**

[www.cgsgcc.church](http://www.cgsgcc.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

### Good Shepherd Sunday

Happy Feast Day! We call ourselves the community of Christ the Good Shepherd. It is all the more important for us to know, then, what it means for us to follow the Good Shepherd.

In the first reading today, both Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly (quoting Isaiah 49:6), and said: *"I have made you a light to the Gentiles, that you may be an instrument of salvation to the ends of the earth."* We ourselves, by our baptism, share in the mission of the Suffering Servant of the Lord of which the prophet Isaiah spoke. His mission is also ours: to bring all people to conversion, repentance, and healing. We hear in the gospel that Jesus desires to "...give them eternal life" so they "shall never perish." An important way we do that is to listen to the voice of the Shepherd as proclaimed in the Holy Scriptures at Sunday Mass. In today's gospel, Jesus tells his disciples: "My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me." May our deepest desire be to hear the voice of the Lord, to keep his commandments, to receive the sacraments of the Church in the company of this holy community, so that we may help one another in this life and one day have the eternal life Jesus promises those who follow him. **Would you like to help us with this Guide?** Contact [discipleship@cgscscc.church](mailto:discipleship@cgscscc.church).

**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

**How do we get to know and love Jesus Christ?**

**Fourth Sunday of Easter readings and podcasts (Year C)**  
from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

**First Reading: Acts 13: 14, 43-52**

**Psalm 100: 1-2 , 3, 5**

**Second Reading: Revelation 7: 9, 14-17**

**Gospel: John 10: 27-30**

**Additional options for studying and discussing the Word of God:**

Opening the Word by FORMED

Reflecting on the Sunday Readings

Sunday Connection by Loyola Press

Children's Liturgy of the Word by Catholic TV

How does hearing the voice of the Shepherd at Mass help us know and love Jesus Christ so that we may not perish but have eternal life?



# WE LEARN & BECOME DISCIPLES TOGETHER

## Question of the Week

How does hearing the voice of the Shepherd at Mass help us know and love Jesus Christ so that we may not perish but have eternal life?

### 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..."

More on how to manage a group discussion.

### Step One

#### CONNECT with our daily LIVES

In today's gospel, we hear Jesus himself speaking to us: Jesus tells us that he wants us to have eternal life and not perish. What do you think Jesus means when he says this?

### Getting Started


How to use this Guide.

Why are we doing this?

#### KEY QUOTE

**"When the Sacred Scriptures are read in the Church, God himself speaks to his people, and Christ, present in his Word, proclaims the Gospel."**

**General Instruction on the Roman Missal, no. 29**



Using this Guide can be as simple or as "in depth" as you want. If you do only the opening prayer section, that's great! To go deeper, follow the steps as shown. For children, see "Resources," page 8.



# Step Two

## CONNECT with Scripture and Tradition

As a domestic church (your household) or Small Faith Group, pray and read through some of the following (you can select) Scriptures & Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) references as time permits.

### In the HOLY SCRIPTURE we read:

- We do not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God--[Matthew 4:4](#).
- Jesus promises the Holy Spirit to help us remember everything he told us--[John 14: 25 -26](#) & [John 16: 12 -13](#).
- As a deer yearns for running streams, so my soul longs for you, my God--[Psalms 42](#)

### In the Catechism of the Catholic Church, we read:

- The Liturgy of the Word is an integral part of the celebration (of Mass)--[CCC 1190](#)
- Every human person seeks to know the truth and experience goodness--[United States Catholic Catechism for Adults, online version, page 32](#) (page 4 in the hard copy)

## Discussion Questions

1. Why is listening important? Do you consider yourself a good listener? Why or why not? What could you do to become a better listener?
2. Prayer is a way of both talking to and listening to God. How do we hear the voice of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, at Mass? Do you often pay attention to the Sunday Mass readings when they are proclaimed? What are some ways you could do this better? (Hint: this CGS FAMILY Guide, page 3) provides us with links to explore the Sunday readings each week.)

**Pope Benedict XVI emphasized that eternal life is not something that awaits us after death, but is a reality that begins in this world: "'Eternal life' is life itself, real life, which can also be lived in the present age and is no longer challenged by physical death. This is the point: to seize 'life' here and now, real life that can no longer be destroyed by anything or anyone."**

3. So many people in today's world are overcome with worry, addictions, bad habits and sins that keep them from enjoying "real life" as God intended--a life of faith, hope, and love. How can listening to God's Word at Mass help us to help people in their darkest moments?

**Want more? Go Deeper!**

## Reflection Question

How has attending Mass and listening to Jesus helped you in your darkest moments? If you feel you have missed out on this, how might you open yourself to the possibility of what God has prepared for you at Mass?

## 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. There is no wrong way to do this!



# Step Three

## CONNECT with OTHERS...

### Living the Gospel with commitment & action.

What can I do to be more devoted to God's Word at Mass so that it will give me the wisdom and strength to be a person who is free of worry, addictions, bad habits and sins? How can I, in turn, help others to be free of these things and live a life of faith, hope, and love. How can listening to God's Word at Mass help us to help me in my darkest moments?

## Practical Activities

### *For the Individual*

#### **Pre-read the Sunday Readings.**

Pre-read the readings for Sunday Mass. If anything, simply read the Gospel. Always available at [bible.usccb.org](http://bible.usccb.org) Consider using one of the resources on page 3 of this Guide to understand them better and be ready to hear them well at Mass.

### *For Couples*

#### **Read the Gospel of the Sunday together.**

This can be a very simple exercise. Read the gospel reading (or any of them). If you like, mention the names of people you would like to pray for, then either sit quietly for a moment, or conclude with the *Our Father*. Studies show that less than 1 in 1000 marriages end when couples attend Mass, practice their faith, and pray together regularly.

### *For the Domestic Church*

#### **Bible Improvisation!**

Invite your children--young and older--to act out the gospel reading in your own home. Invite friends to participate! It can be elaborate or simple. Do an "improve" of the gospel on the spot! Improvisation is the activity of making or doing something not planned beforehand, using whatever can be found; it is a very spontaneous performance without specific or scripted preparation. Laugh, cry, and talk about it together!

### *Missionary Mindset*

#### **Share the Word**

Invite someone to read the Sunday gospel with you (follow the formula "for couples" above.) Sometimes Catholics get so busy trying not to say too much about their faith, when many people are dying to hear the Good News, if only someone would share it with them. We, too, need to be moved by the faith of others.

Be bold about your faith! You will be surprised what happens!





# 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.

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## **Prayer to Follow Jesus, the Good Shepherd**

([Hear this prayer on video](#))

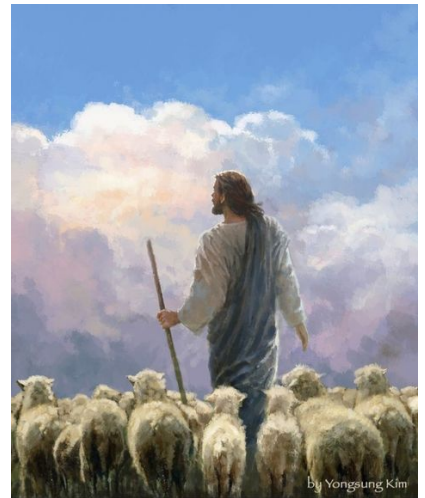
Gentle Jesus, compassionate and caring Good Shepherd,  
help me to follow You faithfully.

Strengthen me daily with Your love,  
and guide me along life's paths.

Keep me free from every evil,  
protect me from sickness and danger,  
and lead me to serve You with all my mind and heart and soul.  
Hear my needs and grant me petitions,  
especially these intentions important to me at this time:

{Mention your petitions here}

Bless me each day with peace of mind and heart.  
May I experience Your saving power in my daily life,  
as I await the fullness of life and joy with You forever. Amen.



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## **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 hearing the voice of the Shepherd at Mass help us know and love Jesus Christ so that we may not perish but have eternal life?**



# RESOURCES FOR ALL AGES

## POINTS OF UNDERSTANDING

Clear statements of the Church's teachings AND where they come from and ways to use them.

### 1. Age-Specific Resources

#### Early Childhood (Ages 3-5)

**Question:** The sheep hear the voice of Jesus and follow him. How do we listen for the voice of Jesus? How do we hear the voice of Jesus at Mass?

"Seeds" by Pflaum Publishing.

**Learn along WITH your child. Learn to foster and feed their natural curiosity. Very good article: Ten Must Do's in your Catholic Preschool**

#### Childhood (Elementary, Grades 1-5)

**Question:** The sheep hear the voice of Jesus and follow him. How do we listen for the voice of Jesus? How do we hear the voice of Jesus at Mass?

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

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

Together at One Altar // The Presences of Christ--article and discussion questions.

Together at One Altar // God Speaks, We Listen--instruction and activities.

Catholic Kids Media // Why Listen to Jesus--video (5:25)

#### Early Adolescence (Jr.High, Grades 6-8)

**Question:** When I hear the gospel reading at Mass, how do I hear the voice of Jesus speaking to me?

We recommend all Catholic youth have their own youth bible.

Grades 5 & 6: "**Venture**" by Pflaum Publishing and Grades 7 & 8: "**Visions**" by Pflaum Publishing.

Together at One Altar // The Presences of Christ--article and discussion questions.

Together at One Altar // God Speaks, We Listen--instruction and activities.

Catholic Answers // What Exactly is Eternal Life? -- Video (5:41)

Ascension Presents // How to Grow in Love with Jesus -- Video (8:02)

#### Adolescence (High School, Grades 9-12)

**Question:** When I hear the gospel reading at Mass, how do I hear the voice of Jesus speaking to me?

Ascension Presents // Evangelization--video (1:04:44)

Ascension Presents // How to Grow in Love with Jesus -- Video (8:02)

Desiring God // Love Jesus More -- Video (12:13)

Fred Schubert OFS // The Veil Removed (The Holy Eucharist - the living Jesus among us from Bethlehem to Golgotha, during The Holy Mass)--video (7:15).

#### HELPFUL TIPS!

Create a prayer table or space.  
Faith Groups at CGS



**LOOK!**

**LOOK!**

Age-specific materials for early childhood through 9th 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 or jcoba@cgsec.church  
Want samples? Need help? Just ask! Learn more at the Gospel Weeklies Website for Parents!



## Adulthood

Joe Aboumoussa // (4 Ways Christ Is Present in the Mass - video (3:58)

Fred Schubert OFS // [The Veil Removed \(The Holy Eucharist - the living Jesus among us from Bethlehem to Golgotha, during The Holy Mass\)](#)--video (7:15).

Catholic Exchange // How to Hear God When You Think He is Being Silent--article.

Catechist Magazine // [A Quick Guide to Praying at Mass](#)--article.

Denver Catholic // [The Liturgy of the Word: God Speaks to His People](#)--article

Diocesan // [The Liturgy of the Word: God speaks to us through Scripture](#)--article

The Catholic Thing // [Eternal Life, Here and Now](#)--article

Pope Francis // [The Word of God Precedes the Bible](#)--article

USCCB // [Hearing the Word of God](#)--article

Today's Catholic // [Jesus is Still With Us](#)--article

## 2. 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 ([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.



#### 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

Our parish subscribes to a library of online resources called Formed. It is excellent and it is free for you to use. Register at [www.formed.org](http://www.formed.org) - Need help? Watch this video.

## Prayers and Praying

About Catholics // [How to Listen to God in Prayer](#)--article.

Catholic Exchange // [Listen to Hear God Speaking to You](#)--article.

## Common Prayers and Formulas to Learn by Heart

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

## Counseling, Grief Support & 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 [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

[Music of the Mass | 14 Hymns & Music for Catholic Mass](#)

[Speak Lord, I Am Listening: 3 Hour Prayer & Meditation Music with Scripture Passages](#)

[Pentatonix - Amazing Grace \(My Chains Are Gone\) \(Official Video\)](#)

## 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 Art - FORMED

Morgan Weistling // [Walking with God](#)



**Lamb of God by Jen Norton**

Lamb of God Painting by Jen Norton

 Fine Art America / \$28.35

**A Parish Feast Day "Must See!"**  
**Jen Norton // Fine Art America**  
**[Lamb of God](#)**

## 3. Sacramental Resources

Visit the **sacraments section** of our parish website to find everything you need to get started with any sacrament. Additional information is being added and continually updated. Contact our parish office if you have a question.



# WE ARE THE CHURCH

## What Makes us Catholic?

### Pope Francis Explains What Happens with Liturgy of the Word at Mass

The Liturgy of the Word is important because there God speaks to us, and the same Holy Spirit who inspired the sacred Scriptures opens our minds and hearts to that living word. At the table of God's Word, we find nourishment for our lives as we listen to the Old and the New Testaments proclaim the one mystery of Christ and call for our response. Drawing from the richness of the Church's Lectionary, the Liturgy of the Word invites us to silent openness to God's saving message as it resounds in the ecclesial assembly and continues God's constant dialogue with his people, the Church.



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

### Word of the Week - Eternal Life (okay, so two words...)

When the Bible speaks of eternal life, it refers to a gift of God that comes only "through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23). Believing in Jesus brings us eternal life. Faith must be nurtured--we need one another to help our faith grow and stay strong during difficult times. One reason we go to Mass is so that we can hear God's voice and all of us together can hear God speaking to all of us. These are the same people we hope to spend all eternity with--we might as well get to know and love one another now!

### Saints of the Month



### More for your Domestic Church

### Book Suggestions

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](http://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](mailto:discipleship@cgscchurch.org)



PRAY,  
NOT UNTIL  
GOD HEARS YOU,  
BUT UNTIL  
YOU LISTEN  
TO GOD



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**



**@CGSYOUTH**

18511 Klein Church Rd. Spring, TX 77379

(281) 376-6831

Very Reverend James Burkart, Pastor

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.

How does hearing the voice of the Shepherd at Mass help us know and love Jesus Christ so that we may not perish but have eternal life?