

CGS FAMILY

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Volume II, Guide 51 November 13, 2022



**How are we giving
testimony to our faith
in this generation?**

www.cgscscc.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

Begin With the End in Mind

In today's gospel, Jesus gives us an ominous message about what will happen in the end times. Rather than allow this to frighten us, let us gain wisdom from his message. For all practical purposes, the "end times" are with us always; we are to live each day beginning with the end in mind. Jesus tells us we will be his witnesses: we will speak the truth about him, the meaning of life, and what truly matters in the end. The time to do that is now. In an increasingly secularized world, where God and the things of God are often neglected--if not rejected--we Christians are charged by the power of our baptism to tell the truth, to act in truth, to keep Christ's commandments and be witnesses of him to those who do not know him, and to strengthen the faith of those who have begun to know him and desire to be closer to him. Where will it all end? Only God knows for sure, but we have been told that, "By your perseverance you will secure your lives."

In this week's CGS FAMILY Guide, let us explore the ways in which we can give testimony to Christ and act as his witnesses in our families and in the world.

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 are we called to become missionary disciples of Jesus Christ?

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings and Rodcasts (Year C)

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

First Reading: Malachi 3:19-20a

Psalm: 98:5-6, 7-8, 9

Second Reading: 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12

Gospel: Luke 21:5-19

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

WE LEARN & BECOME DISCIPLES TOGETHER

Question of the Week

How are we giving testimony to our faith in this generation?

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.](#)

Getting
Started

[How to use
this Guide.](#)

[Why are we
doing this?](#)

Step One

CONNECT with our daily LIVES

What does "testimony" mean to you?

Why does the world needs Christians to tell the story of Christ and what he has done for us?
(Hint: look at the intro paragraph on page 2.)



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:

- The Lord delights in our own testimonies. Psalm 119:111
- We are called to fight for our faith and be an example for others. 1 Timothy 6:12
- The greatest testimony is that of God on behalf of his Son. 1 John 5:9

In the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC), we read:

- Faith is a gift from God, and we must persevere #162
- We can foster our testimony through our vocation and human work #2426
- Living out our Faith is done so from the graces given to us by Christ #2829

Discussion Questions

1. In what ways have you found it easy to express your faith to others? In what ways have you found it to be difficult? Explain your answer.
2. How well does your outward expression of faith match up with your beliefs?
3. Do your actions speak louder than your words? Are there times when we actually need to use words to tell what is important?



Want more? Go Deeper!

Reflection Questions

What are some practical ways that I can pass on my faith? How do I shine the light of Christ to lead others to Him? Who in particular do I need to speak to this week?

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.

It is said that Saint Francis of Assisi once said, "Preach the Gospel at all times and when necessary, use words." What ways could you preach or live out the Gospel by your actions?

Practical Activities

For the Individual: **Reflection Journal**

Journaling is a great way of prayer and reflection. Bringing your thoughts, memories, joys, and sufferings onto paper is a great way of meditative and vocal prayer. On your next journal entry, be intentional in writing and reflecting on your relationship with Christ. You may uncover hidden blessings or prayers answered that you did not know before.

For Couples: **Be Intentional**

Pray about ways that you can be intentional to share your love for your spouse. So often we get busy and take those that are closest to us for granted. Find simple ways to show your love for each other and help lighten the load for your loved one.

For the Domestic Church: **Celebrate Your Family's Faith Journey**

Make sure to add the dates of baptisms, first communion, confirmations, marriages, and even deaths to your family calendar. Take time to share a special meal or treat, pray together and share memories of your family's special days in your faith journey.

Missionary Mindset; **Feed the Hungry**

The demand to feed those in need is greater than ever at this time of the year. Purchase some extra non-perishable food items and drop them off in the containers located in the narthex of the church. You could also volunteer to serve at a soup kitchen to feed those that are in need of a warm meal.

Planning a Catholic Funeral

Our Scripture readings this month point to end times and preparing ourselves for the future with hope for life in Christ.

Learn more about planning a funeral at our parish.



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.
-

Prayer For Missionaries

Lord Jesus Christ, watch over your missionaries – priests, religious, and lay people – who leave everything to give testimony to your word and your love. In difficult moments, sustain their energies, comfort their hearts, and crown their work with spiritual achievements. Let the adorable image of you crucified on the Cross, which accompanies them throughout life, speak to them of heroism, generosity, love and peace.

Amen.



Join us for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Come as you are. Bring your family. We need prayer.

See the schedule on our parish website.

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 are we giving testimony to our faith in this generation?

RESOURCES FOR ALL AGES

POINTS OF UNDERSTANDING

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



1. Age-Specific Resources

Early Childhood (Ages 3-5)

Question: How do we show others we love Jesus?

"**Seeds**" by Pflaum Publishing.

Tomkins the Catholic Cowboy // Hope -- Video (2:00)

Childhood (Elementary, Grades 1-5)

Question: How can we share our love for Jesus?

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

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

Douglas Talks // What Is a Christian?--Video (7:04)

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

Question: How do you live out your faith in front of others?

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

Grades 7 & 8: "**Visions**" by Pflaum Publishing.

Ascension Presents // Reading the "Signs" from God -- video (7:01)

Ascension Presents // What Does God Want Me to Do? -- video (6:01)

Adolescence (High School, Grades 9-12)

Question: How do you live out your faith in front of others?

Ascension Press // How to Give Your Testimony -- podcast (38:20)

FOCUS // The Power of Your Testimony -- blog

Catholic Minute // Living a Life of Meaning -- video (4:12)

Ascension Presents // Reading the "Signs" from God -- video (7:01)

HELPFUL TIPS!

Create a prayer table or space.
Faith Groups at CGS

Age-Specific Resources for Parents

Age-specific materials for early childhood through 8th grade are now available for you to use along with this Guide.

They are easy to use. 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@cgscc.church**

Have you ever wanted explain how Catholic beliefs effect how you see the world?

We have a class for YOU!

Studies in Spirituality, Catholic Beliefs, Morality and more offered by the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston!

For more information follow the link to [ETCM](#) or contact discipleship@cgscc.church



Adulthood

Jayd Henricks// [Bearing Witness to the Faith in Defense of Religious Freedom](#) -- (article)

Becky Roach// [8 Tips for Introducing Millennials and Gen Z to the Beauty of Catholicism](#) -- (article)

USCCB//[Reclaiming Wholeness: Addiction | Recover | Community](#) -- Video (1:28:26)

"The spread of the Gospel is not guaranteed either by the number of persons, or by the prestige of the institution, or by the quantity of available resources. What counts is to be permeated by the love of Christ, to let oneself be led by the Holy Spirit and to graft one's own life onto the tree of life, which is the Lord's cross."

**Pope Francis' Homily
Mass with Seminarians and
Novices, 2013**



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 Online

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 – Need help? Watch this video.

Prayers and Praying

Catholic.Org // [Act of Faith](#) -- blog

SistersofMercy // [Prayer for Uncertainty](#) -- blog

FOCUS // [Prayer and Testimony](#) -- blog

Catholic.Org // [Prayer to Serve God](#) -- blog

Catholic.Org // [Prayer of Solace](#) -- blog

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

Casting Crowns // [Only Jesus](#) -- music video (3:49)

Casting Crowns // [Until the Whole World Hears](#) -- music video (5:18)

NEEDTOBREATHE // [Testify](#) -- lyric video (4:03)

Jenn Johnson // [Send Me](#) -- live video (6:30)

Hillsong United // [I Surrender](#) -- live video (6:52)

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

Gerome Jean Leon // [The Christian Martyrs and Last Prayer](#) -- painting

Reproduction of Destroyed Painting // [The 26 Holy Martyrs of Japan](#) -- painting

COVER ARTWORK: Holy Family by Valerie Delgado (paxbeloved.com)

3. Sacramental Information

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



[Saint Stephen Martyr](#) --

Giorgio Vasari 1560

WE ARE THE CHURCH

What Makes us Catholic?

Relics

Through centuries and centuries, the Church and her beauty has preserved relics of those who have gone before us by giving their witness to the Faith. Relics are physical remains or possessions of the Holy men and women who have since passed. There are 3 classes of relics. 1st class being blood, bone, or piece of the body. 2nd class being a belonging or personal item. 3rd class being an object that has touched a 1st or 2nd class relic. Relics are used to represent God's miracles that can happen through them but also to remind us that we are called to Heaven.



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

Word of the Week - Martyrdom

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states, "Martyrdom is the supreme witness given to the truth of the faith: it means bearing witness even unto death. The martyr bears witness to Christ who died and rose, to whom he is united by charity. He bears witness to the truth of the faith and of Christian doctrine. He endures death through an act of fortitude." (CCC 2473)

Saints of the Month

Book Suggestions

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.

DISCIPLESHIP@CGSCC.CHURCH

"HELPING PEOPLE TO KNOW AND LOVE JESUS CHRIST."



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.