



# Christ the Redeemer Catholic Church

Pastor - Monsignor Gregory Smith

599 Keith Road, West Vancouver, BC, V7T 1L8

Assistant Pastor - Father Giovanni Schiesari

Office - (604) 922-1371 | Fax - (604) 922-5942

Parish Website - [www.ctrwestvan.ca](http://www.ctrwestvan.ca)

Facebook - [www.facebook.com/ctrwestvan](http://www.facebook.com/ctrwestvan)

## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time—February 4, 2018

# What's all the fuss about? The National Post Explains

*Chris Selley for the National Post*

**Government funds Catholic institutions regularly without restriction, so why is the summer jobs program different?**



There are a few theories with respect to the strange fracas over government-funded summer jobs and abortion rights. Some see it as a wedge play by the Liberals to chase womb-bothering conservatives into the sunlight, where they can be pelted with spoiled produce.

Others see it as a sincere expression of a uniquely Canadian brand of fanaticism: that any legal limits on abortion rights are non-debatable, even unconstitutional.

Either way, it is not clear to me that the government and its partisans understand why some religious groups object to attesting that the jobs being funded — and the organization's "core mandate" — "respect reproductive rights."

Let this atheist try to explain. Let's say you want government money for a Bible camp. No problem, say the Liberals. Your "core mandate" is presumably canoe trips, swimming, rope courses, plus some religious programming. So long as you're not actively working against abortion rights, you're fine. Tick the box and hope for the best.

I can understand how this makes sense to a Liberal. The Chrétien-Martin glory years cemented this idea that religious people are welcome in Canadian politics so long as they leave their religious beliefs with House of Commons security. Paul Martin was famously said to struggle enormously with abortion, we were told, but ultimately decided to support a woman's right to choose: secular beat religious.

That's all well and good for elected officials. Any politician successful enough that his religious beliefs are a matter of public interest will have sacrificed dozens of

principles to get where he is. But it's still a silly idea. How is anyone supposed to climb inside his worldview and sort the religiously informed policy preferences from the secularly informed ones?

Indeed, it's easy to imagine certain religiously inspired elements of Martin's worldview (compassion, mercy, all that good stuff) informing his decision to go against Catholic dogma on both abortion and same-sex marriage. Millions of Catholics all over the world have done the same.

Every individual has a different relationship with his faith. But a Baptist Bible camp or a Catholic homeless shelter or a Muslim soup kitchen will likely see its mission as the manifestation of the underlying belief system they all profess to share.

That summer camps, homeless shelters and soup kitchens are unlikely to have much interaction with the abortion debate does not make it any less offensive to ask them to forswear part of that underlying belief system. Every canoe trip, every bed, every bowl of soup is a manifestation of that belief system.

In cases like these, Canadian progressives often argue as if certain rights had at some point been promoted over religious freedom: the (supposed) right to abortion on demand and the (undisputed) right to same-sex civil marriage are the ones we hear most about when they conflict with the views of religious institutions. But the Supreme Court has been clear, not least in its reference case on the Civil Marriage Act, on what happens when rights collide: the courts don't pick a winner and loser; rather, they try to balance them.

Liberals and many of their supporters, by contrast, seem to be happy to pick the losers: those who can't and won't tick the box. I find it quite odious, but more than that I find the summer jobs program a strange place for this debate to come to a head. Canadian taxpayers fund Catholic hospitals that won't perform abortions or offer medical assistance in dying; they fund Catholic schools

*...continued on page 2*

“rooted in the love of Christ” and in the catechism, which is neither conspicuously pro-choice nor conspicuously pro-gay. Recently, the surge in demand for beds at homeless shelters in Toronto was (barely) met, inter alia, by St. Simon’s Shelter (Anglican), The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (Catholic), the Salvation Army (Evangelical) and the Scott Mission (non-denominationally Christian).

These are services churches have long provided with the help of public funding, and that makes sense to me: care for the sick and the vulnerable is one of the main things I expect from religiously devout people, and it makes sense

to use diverse approaches in providing public services. But it’s unlikely they would all happily tick the box.

I don’t see how you can be OK with hospitals and public schools and homeless shelters, and not OK with some little backwoods Bible camp. Lots of people have long argued to defund churches and their organizations, even to withdraw charitable status. That certainly has not been a mainstream Liberal position, however. In defending their side, many Liberals seem to be proposing something revolutionary without quite realizing it.

*further reading and information on page 4*

## A Glance at Our Parish Calendar

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>February 4</b>	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Youth Alpha Launches</b>	<b>Mallon Room</b>
Monday	February 5	7:30 p.m.	Word of God Bible Study	Mallon Room
Tuesday	February 6	7:00 p.m.	R.C.I.A.	Mallon Room
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>February 7</b>	<b>9:15 a.m.</b>	<b>School Mass</b>	<b>Church</b>
		10:00 a.m.	Knitting for Charity	Mallon Room
		4:15 p.m.	P.R.E.P.	McCarthy Room
Thursday	February 8	9:00 a.m.	Adult Faith Formation (St. James)	Mallon Room
Friday	February 9	6:00 a.m.	Commuter Club	Mallon Room

## Mass Schedule & Intentions

<b>Sun Feb 4</b>	9:00 a.m.	Francis Calnan †
	11:00 a.m.	
	5:00 p.m.	<i>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
<b>Mon Feb 5</b>	8:15 a.m.	Eileen & Jim O’Connor (int) <i>St. Agatha</i>
<b>Tues Feb 6</b>	8:15 a.m.	Emma Marie Zwaenepoel † <i>St. Paul Miki and Companions</i>
<b>Wed Feb 7</b>	9:15 a.m.	Charlotte Berquist (int)
<b>Thu Feb 8</b>	8:15 a.m.	Kevin O’Connell † <i>St. Josephine Bakhita</i>
<b>Fri Feb 9</b>	8:15 a.m.	Russel Sheehan †
<b>Sat Feb 10</b>	9:00 a.m.	David Gleeson † <i>St. Scholastica</i>
<b>Sun Feb 11</b>	9:00 a.m.	Phyllis Gleeson (int)
	11:00 a.m.	
	5:00 p.m.	<i>6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>

## Family Day—February 12

Next Monday, February 12 is a statutory holiday. Please note that daily Mass will be celebrated at 9 a.m., and the Parish Office will be closed.



## Please Pray For

Alix Smith (*niece of Msgr. Smith*)



## We Continue to Pray for

*Kenneth Beesley, Carlos Bolbrugge, Timothy Buckley, Kacey Caldarella, Gerald Carrol, Veronica Chan, John Choi, Elias Chong, Robert Coles, Rose Cullen, Sofia Curalli, Barry Cutler, Cecilia Donahoe, Dana Donelson, Margaret Fry, Jeannine Gillis, Eric Greenwood, Nicholas Havemann, Maria Helbig, Patrick Hickey, Patricia Keough, Benita Lameo, Young-pyo Lee, Marcos Lopes, Lawrence Marchant, Tom McCusker, Michael O’Brien, Ethan Price, Erich Puchinger, Natalia Pyk, Plunkett Quinn, Emma Grace Radziminski, Gordon Ridgedale, Derek Ridsdale, Tammy Rodriguez, Leonie Roemuss, Margaret Ryan, Breda Sheehan, Theresa Sheehan, Milan Sikich, Linwood Trask, Maria Magdalena Velázquez, Rolly Waechter, Lucienne Watson, Joseph Wein, Amy Wheeler, Joseph Willgot, and Simon Wong*



## Pray for the Repose of the Soul of

Eun “Mary” Kim (*wife of Joon Huh*)

## BC Catholic Special Collection



Please note that there will be a second collection today for the BC Catholic. The collection helps defray our parish’s costs for mailing the paper. Please give generously in support of Catholic press.





## ONE Conference

We are all called to be leaders in some way. Join us for the annual Archdiocesan ONE Conference, called “Mercy & Beyond: Sharing Our Joy”, which will speak to the core of what being a joyful leader means. Dr. Lombardi is one of the keynote speakers at this year’s ONE Conference this **Saturday, February 10**, along with Fr. James Mallon, from Divine Renovation. This conference will inspire you to be a better leader at home, work or in the parish through breakout session topics such as: Holding onto your Kids in a Digital World by Dr. Deborah MacNamara, Making the Most of Your Leadership Potential by Brett Powell, Parish Renewal by Jake Khym, and How to Improve our Prayer Life from Fr. John Braganza, Abbott at Westminster Abbey. Find out more and register at [www.onecatholic.ca](http://www.onecatholic.ca).



## Children's Liturgy

The Children's Liturgy of the Word program is looking for volunteers for both the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Masses.

For the 9 a.m. Mass, please contact Valerie Dong at 604-218-8032, and for the 11 a.m. Mass, please contact Myra Stevens at 778-229-1243.



## 40 Days for Life

40 Days for Life is a focused pro-life campaign with a vision to access God’s power through prayer, fasting, and peaceful vigil to end abortion in Canada and around the world. Its mission is to bring together the body of Christ in a spirit of unity with a purpose of repentance, to seek God’s favour to turn hearts and minds from a culture of death to a culture of life.

This year’s campaign runs from February 14 to March 25. A big part of the campaign is an around-the-clock prayer vigil outside B.C. Women’s Health Centre—the largest abortion facility in B.C. We invite all parishioners to take part in this campaign by committing to an hour of prayer at the Hospital. If you would like to be involved in another capacity or to learn more information about the Vancouver campaign, please visit <https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/vancouver-2/>.

## Catholic Women's League News



Our Members Appreciation Dinner and the Installation of the New Executive will take place on **Wednesday, February 21**, beginning with Mass at 6:30 p.m. All members are welcome. A hot meal and beverages will be provided, but donations of either appetizers or desserts are appreciated.

In addition, CWL membership renewals are still ongoing, please drop off cheques made out to the CTR CWL at the Parish Office or in a labelled envelope in the Sunday collection.



## Vocation Live-in

On the weekend of **February 16 - 18**, there will be a Vocation Live-In for boys or young men interested in the priesthood or the consecrated life at the Seminary of Christ the King, Mission, BC. For more information call 604-826-8715.



## Formation Corner

*Excerpted from the Pastoral Constitution Gaudium et Spes from Vatican II: The Church in the Modern World, no. 21*

*(The church's attitude to atheism).* In its loyalty to both God and the human race the church cannot refrain from strongly and strenuously deploring, as it has in the past, those destructive doctrines and actions which contradict the reason and shared experience of human beings and deprive them of their inherent grandeur.

Yet the church seeks to identify the causes in the minds of atheists which underlie their denial of God, and it is sensitive to the gravity of the questions which atheism raises. In its love for all people it considers that these questions demand serious and deeper examination.

The church holds that the acknowledgment of God is in no way at odds with human dignity, since this has God for its basis and fulfilment.

*For the whole text, see [http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist\\_councils/ii\\_vatican\\_council/documents/vat-ii\\_const\\_19651207\\_gaudium-et-spes\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_const_19651207_gaudium-et-spes_en.html)*



## The CCCB's Response to the Summer Jobs Program

*Continued from page 2*

In partnership with ecumenical and interfaith organizations, the CCCB helped organize a news conference held at 1:00 p.m. on 25 January, at St. Benedict Catholic Church, Toronto. Those speaking at the news conference, among others, were His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins on behalf of the CCCB and the Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto/ During the news conference, the four spokespersons released an ecumenical and interfaith statement signed by over 80 leaders of faith communities, organizations and institutions, asking the Prime Minister and the Government of Canada to amend the present Canada Summer Jobs guidelines and application process so these do not compel agreement, and so enable religious organizations to remain true to their identity and beliefs.

For more information and all the links regarding these issue, please go to [www.ctrwestvan.ca/currentissues](http://www.ctrwestvan.ca/currentissues).



## Retrouvaille

Retrouvaille is a superb help for couples struggling with their marriage. It has helped many stay together, happily, and grow. It is a weekend experience for couples only (no group discussions) with six to seven follow-up sessions on the Sundays following the weekend. The next program is scheduled on the weekend of April 20-22. Couples in difficulty — to register please visit [www.retrouvaillevancover.com](http://www.retrouvaillevancover.com), or phone Marc and Candice at 604-530-6710, or send an email to [vancouverbc@retrouvaille.org](mailto:vancouverbc@retrouvaille.org). All inquiries are confidential.



## Lost and Found Items

We have a number of lost and found items (coats, bags, etc.) stored in the church foyer by the cloak room and available to claim. For more valuable items (like jewellery and wallets), please contact the office. Due to the length of time these items have been stored here, please note that in a month's time, all unclaimed articles currently in the lost and found will be donated to charity.

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**UBS** Wealth Management  
**Rhodri Rees-Jones**  
Director, Senior Private Wealth Mgr.  
UBS Investment Mgmt. Canada Inc.  
999 W Hastings St., #650  
Vancouver V6C 2W2  
604-331-4557  
[rhodri.rees-jones@ubs.com](mailto:rhodri.rees-jones@ubs.com)



**Dr. Ewa Lesinska Kostamo**  
Dentist  
Comprehensive Dentistry  
for the whole family  
215 Lonsdale Avenue  
North Vancouver  
604-988-1231



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