

## Christ the Redeemer Catholic Church

Pastor - Monsignor Gregory Smith Assistant Pastor - Father Giovanni Schiesari Parish Website - www.ctrwestvan.ca

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6th Sunday in Ordinary Time—February 11, 2018

## An Important Message on Pastoral Care

Help your parish help you!

Following the example of Jesus, the Church makes caring for the sick an important part of its ministry and mission: "The Lord himself showed great concern for the bodily and spiritual welfare of the sick and

commanded his followers to do likewise" (*Rite for the Anointing of the Sick*). Catholic health care facilities continue to play an important role in our Archdiocese, while a regular program of pastoral care is carried on by the parish in homes, care facilities, and Lions Gate Hospital.

Our parish cares for the sick and infirm in two main ways. The priests ensure that the sick and the dying receive the sacraments and celebrate other rites with them and their families at the appropriate times. We no longer speak of the anointing of the sick as "the last rites," because the Sacrament of the Sick is meant to sustain the sick in time of illness and even, when appropriate, to promote their recovery.

This sacrament "gives the grace of the Holy Spirit to those who are sick: by this grace the whole person is helped and saved, sustained by trust in God, and strengthened against the temptations of the Evil One and against anxiety over death. Thus the sick person is able not only to bear the suffering bravely, but also to fight against it. A return to physical health may follow the reception of this sacrament if it will be beneficial to the sick person's salvation."

There are, however, other rites the priests celebrate with the dying and their families, at appropriate times. Ministry to the dying "places emphasis on trust in the Lord's promise to eternal life rather than on the struggle against illness, which is characteristic of the pastoral care of the sick."

Our dedicated volunteer ministers regularly take Holy Communion to parishioners who are infirm, rather than acutely ill, whether at home or at the two local care facilities. The same generous volunteers organize a monthly Mass at the care facilities.

At Lions Gate Hospital, the priests and

extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion visit sick parishioners and those recovering from surgery; they are assisted by the La Salette Sisters from Holy Trinity Parish, whose hospital ministry Christ the Redeemer Parish supports with an annual financial contribution. Deacon Richard Podgurski has been appointed to serve in Catholic patients at the hospital, and visits regularly.

Identifying yourself as a Catholic on admission to LGH helps to ensure pastoral visits, while the hospital's full time spiritual health practitioner, Rev. Andres Rebane (a Protestant minister) is a compassionate resource for Catholic patients and works diligently to ensure they have access to Catholic sacraments. There is also a cell phone carried 24/7 by one of the North Shore priests on a scheduled rotation (the number is 778-386-5070).

Obviously, this is a complex ministry involving many people, serving an increasing number of the sick and infirm. We can't provide good pastoral care to the sick without your help. We need to hear from you!

#### What you can do

- Whenever a family member falls seriously ill, call the rectory immediately. **Do not leave a voicemail in such cases.** Always make personal contact with the rectory staff, or with one of the priests on their cell phones. If you do not make contact, call the on-call priest at 778-386-5070.
- Call the rectory whenever you or a family member will have a hospital stay of more than two nights, or are preparing for any major surgery. The Sacrament of the Sick can be celebrated in the church, at home, or in hospital.
- Do not hesitate to ask to receive Holy Communion at home, regularly, or whenever you will be missing more than two Sundays for reasons of health.

#### A Glance at Our Parish Calendar

Monday	February 12	9:00 a.m.	Family Day Mass	Church
•	•	7:30 p.m.	Word of God Bible Study	Mallon Room
Tuesday	February 13	9:00 a.m.	CWL Parish Breakfast	Mallon Room
·	•	7:00 p.m.	R.C.I.A.	Mallon Room
Wednesday	February 14	8:15 a.m.	Ash Wednesday Mass	Church
		9:15 a.m.	Ash Wednesday Mass	Church
		10:00 a.m.	Knitting for Charity	Mallon Room
		4:15 p.m.	P.R.E.P.	McCarthy Room
		7:00 p.m.	Ash Wednesday Mass	Church
Thursday	February 15	9:00 a.m.	Adult Faith Formation (St. James)	Mallon Room
Friday	February 16	6:00 a.m.	Commuter Club	Mallon Room
		1:00 p.m.	Quiero Conocer la Verdad!	McCarthy Room
		6:00 p.m.	Soup and Silence, and Stations of the Cross	Mallon Room
Sunday	February 18	6:00 p.m.	Youth Alpha	Mallon Room

#### Mass Schedule & Intentions

Sun Feb 11	9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	Phyllis Gleeson (int)  6th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Mon Feb 12	9:00 a.m.	Ed Reznicek †
Tues Feb 13	8:15 a.m.	Russell Sheehan <b>†</b>
Wed Feb 14	8:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	Holy Souls  Ash Wednesday
Thu Feb 15	8:15 a.m.	Bridget Harrington <b>†</b>
Fri Feb 16	8:15 a.m.	Warren & Dorothy Blaine †
Sat Feb 17	9:00 a.m.	Pauline Correa (int)
Sun Feb 18	9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	Mary O'Connor (int)  1st Sunday of Lent

#### Family Day—February 12

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



#### Vocation Live-in

Next weekend, 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. For more information call 604-826-8715.

#### 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, Alix Smith,
Linwood Trask, Maria Magdalena Velázquez, Rolly Waechter,
Lucienne Watson, Joseph Wein, Amy Wheeler, Joseph Willgot,
and Simon Wong

#### 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.

# For th articles

#### Thank You, NP

For the last few weeks we have featured articles from the National Post. You can subscribe to the paper at <a href="https://www.newibs/">https://www.newibs/</a>

pages.postmedia.com/national-post/subscribe/



#### Ash Wednesday and Lent

Ash Wednesday begins the 40-day season of Lent, a season of self-examination, fasting, and penance to prepare us for the joyful celebration of Easter

Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting and abstinence—a serious obligation for every Catholic.

The law of fasting requires Catholics 18 to 59 years of age to reduce the amount of food eaten from normal. The Church understands this as one ordinary meal, and two light meals which if added together would not exceed the main meal in quantity. The fast is broken by eating between meals and by drinks which could be considered food.

The law of abstinence requires all Catholics 14 years of age and over to abstain from eating meat.

Besides those outside of the age limits, the sick are excused from these obligations.

Ashes will be blessed and administered at all Masses on Ash Wednesday. To ensure that all parishioners have the opportunity to begin their Lenten journey with the celebration of the Eucharist, Masses will be celebrated at 8:15 a.m., 9:15 a.m., and 7:00 p.m.

"Above all, I urge the members of the Church to take up the Lenten journey with enthusiasm, sustained by almsgiving, fasting and prayer. If, at times, the flame of charity seems to die in our own hearts, know that this is never the case in the heart of God! He constantly gives us a chance to begin loving anew." - Pope Francis

#### Soup and Silence—a Lenten Tradition



One of the nicest traditions at our parish is the annual series of Lenten suppers we call "Soup and Silence". Parishioners and friends gather around a table in silent reflection and gratitude as a simple but nourishing meal

feeds their bodies and spirits. There is no charge for the homemade soups and bread, but an opportunity to give alms is provided by the St. Vincent de Paul Society, which hosts Soup and Silence every Friday in Lent beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Mallon Room, except Good Friday. All are welcome, including families. Stations of the Cross follows at 7 p.m.



#### More Lenten Reading

Excerpted from Pope Francis' Lenten Message 2018

The Church, our Mother and Teacher, along with the often bitter medicine of the

truth, offers us in the Lenten season the soothing remedy of prayer, almsgiving and fasting.

By devoting more time to prayer, we enable our hearts to root out our secret lies and forms of selfdeception, and then to find the consolation God offers. He is our Father and he wants us to live life well.

Almsgiving sets us free from greed and helps us to regard our neighbour as a brother or sister. What I possess is never mine alone. How I would like almsgiving to become a genuine style of life for each of us! How I would like us, as Christians, to follow the example of the Apostles and see in the sharing of our possessions a tangible witness of the communion that is ours in the Church! For this reason, I echo Saint Paul's exhortation to the Corinthians to take up a collection for the community of Jerusalem as something from which they themselves would benefit (cf. 2 Cor 8:10). This is all the more fitting during the Lenten season, when many groups take up collections to assist Churches and peoples in need. Yet I would also hope that, even in our daily encounters with those who beg for our assistance, we would see such requests as coming from God himself. When we give alms, we share in God's providential care for each of his children. If through me God helps someone today, will he not tomorrow provide for my own needs? For no one is more generous than God.

Fasting weakens our tendency to violence; it disarms us and becomes an important opportunity for growth. On the one hand, it allows us to experience what the destitute and the starving have to endure. On the other hand, it expresses our own spiritual hunger and thirst for life in God. Fasting wakes us up. It makes us more attentive to God and our neighbour. It revives our desire to obey God, who alone is capable of satisfying our hunger.

For the complete message, go to <a href="https://zenit.org/articles/popes-message-for-lent-2018/">https://zenit.org/articles/popes-message-for-lent-2018/</a>



#### 40 Days for 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 <a href="https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/vancouver-2/">https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/vancouver-2/</a>.



### Corpus Christi College

Future and prospective students and parents are invited to Preview Night on Thursday, February 15 at 7 p.m. at the College (5935 Iona Drive). This is an awesome

opportunity to meet our staff and faculty, hear from students and alumni, and discover the experience of a Catholic college. Bring your questions; we'll have the answers. For more information, go to <a href="https://corpuschristi.ca">https://corpuschristi.ca</a>.

#### Second Collection—Next Week



Please note that there will be a second collection next Sunday, February 18 for the St. Joseph's Society, one which has been providing for retired priests' needs for years.

The collection was started as a way of helping the Church carry out her

responsibility for retired and sick priests. The St. Joseph's Society also provides assistance to priests who are sick as well as priests who are semi-retired to supplement their income.

The collection is an opportunity for the people of the Archdiocese to express their appreciation for the years of service retired priests have given. Please be generous in support of the retired priests in our Archdiocese.

For more information about this collection and the work of the St. Joseph's Society, please visit rcav.org/st-josephs-society.

You may also make an online donation to the Society at <u>reav.thankyou4earing.org/stjosephsociety</u>.



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Home visits are available.

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