



CHRIST THE REDEEMER

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH • 599 Keith Road, West Vancouver, BC, V7T 1L8

RADIATING THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL WITHIN OUR PARISH FAMILY AND BEYOND

Pastor - Msgr. Gregory Smith

Office Phone - (604) 922-1371

Assistant Pastor - Rev. Jeff Thompson, CSB

Email - office@ctrwestvan.ca

Parish Website - www.ctrwestvan.ca

Flocknote - flocknote.com/CTRRcav

3rd Sunday of Lent—March 15, 2020

A Letter from the Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Last week, I discovered a wonderful quotation from St. Peter Chanel, who was martyred for the faith on the island of Futuna in 1841: “In such a difficult mission, we *must* be holy.”

I'd like to suggest to all of you that in such a difficult situation, we must be holy. We must find in the uncertainties of the present pandemic an opportunity to grow closer to God. In particular, we can find ourselves called to greater trust in him and more concern for our neighbour.

The directives from civil and Church authorities are changing almost daily, but at Christ the Redeemer we are striving to follow them to the letter and to find creative and compassionate solutions to the particular circumstances of our parish.

Unless you are reading this online, you already know that we have replaced the Sunday celebration of Mass with the distribution of Holy Communion. But the Archbishop has made it clear that the Sunday obligation has been modified: anyone who is even remotely unwell, those who believe they may be at risk, and those over the age of 65, are all encouraged to stay home and are excused from the Sunday obligation.

We have cancelled programs which require close contact, such as Soup and Silence and the Sunday Coffee hour. But others—including daily Mass—will continue for now as we work out careful cleaning protocols and rules about keeping our distance.

The church will be open every weekday for private prayer from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., until this crisis has passed.

The best way to keep yourself informed of changes to our schedules is to subscribe to our Flocknote network, which you can do at www.flocknote.com/CTRRcav, or by emailing us at tchan@ctrwestvan.ca.

I can add little to the wonderful document “A Faith Response to the Coronavirus” enclosed with this bulletin, and I encourage you to read it carefully. Having just finished books on both the First and Second World Wars, I would conclude by reminding you of the resilience and generosity that is part of the human spirit, and particularly connected to the Christian life.

We will weather this storm with the help of the Lord, who remains sovereign over every aspect of our lives — and who works for good in all things for those who love him (Romans 8:28).

May God protect you all and particularly our elderly.

A Glance at Our Parish Calendar

Monday	March 16	Cancelled	Opus Dei—Ladies Evening of Recollection	Cancelled
Tuesday	March 17	7:00 p.m.	R.C.I.A.	Email for Update
Wednesday	March 18	Spring Break	P.R.E.P.	Returns April 1
		Cancelled	C.W.L.—General Meeting	Cancelled
Thursday	March 19	9:00 a.m.	Great Adventure Bible Study— <i>Galatians</i>	Email for Update
		Cancelled	Knitting for Charity	Cancelled
Friday	March 20	TBD	Men's Prayer Group (Flocknote Will Update)	Email for Update
		Cancelled	Soup and Silence	See Below
		7:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross	Church

Mass Schedule & Intentions

Sun Mar 15	No Masses	Theresa Yoshioka † (Intention remembered at priests' private Mass) <i>3rd Sunday of Lent</i>
Mon Mar 16	8:15 a.m.	Al Vachon †
Tues Mar 17	8:15 a.m.	Brendan Sheehan (int)
Wed Mar 18	8:15 a.m.	Richard Lesinski †
Thu Mar 19	8:15 a.m.	Cornelius O'Connor † <i>St. Joseph</i>
Fri Mar 20	8:15 a.m.	Phil Gleeson † <i>ABSTINENCE</i>
Sat Mar 21	9:00 a.m.	Barry Cutler †
Sun Mar 22	TBD	Check for update re: Schedule Christopher Boon Chin Chua † <i>4th Sunday of Lent</i>



Weekday Masses as Usual

There are **no cancellations** of weekday Mass foreseen. We encourage you to join us for the Eucharist, which will be celebrated Monday to Friday (see above) at **8:15 a.m.**

and Saturday at **9 a.m.**

Those attending daily Mass are asked to keep the recommended two-meter distance from non-family members and to sit in alternating pews.

Confessions will continue at the scheduled times.



Changes to Mass Schedule

As St. Anthony's School is on Spring Break, daily Mass on Wednesdays will be celebrated at 8:15 a.m. for **March 18 and 25**. Confessions will still be available from **8:45—9 a.m.**



Confession Schedule

Wednesdays 8:45—9:00 a.m.
Saturdays 9:30—10:00 a.m.
Sundays 4:15—4:45 p.m.

A **penitential service** is planned at the parish on **Tuesday, April 7** at **7 p.m.**

Please Pray For

Helen Bush
Mary Menescardi
Iain Morton



We Continue to Pray For

Kenneth Beesley, Ron Buziol, Stephanie Cameron-Antil, Veronica Chan, Leo Dy, Ted Ewbank, Mireille Farwagi, Marilyn Goulet, Germaine Guay, Gemma Konar, Annie Mackenzie, Margaret McCormick, Juanita Nazareth, Eduardo Peralta, Graham Ridsdale, Breda Sheehan, Theresa Sheehan, Linwood Trask, Molly Waechter, Ed Wild, and Terry Zweng



Parish Finances

Last Week's Collection: \$10,755.30
(including Dedicated Giving)
Weekly Parish Expenses: \$13,750.00
(to run parish and programs)
Operating Shortfall: (\$2,994.70)

Soup and Silence—Cancelled

Stations of the Cross as Usual at 7 p.m.



Due to the current situation, the parish is canceling all parish programs involving close contact. Please note that Soup and Silence will **be cancelled for the remainder of Lent**.

Do join us for the Stations!



NES 2020—Cancelled

The New Evangelization Summit scheduled for April 25, 2020 has been **cancelled**.



COVID-19

Please find below a link to helpful documents and information during this time. Please remember to take into account all recommendations made by the BC Minister of Health as well as the Archdiocese of Vancouver, all of which are compiled at rcav.org/coronavirus.

Here is the link to **making a Spiritual Communion**, if you are unable to make it to Mass or Communion services: <https://rcav.org/wp-content/uploads/spiritual-communion-prayers.pdf>.

"A Faith Response to the Coronavirus" is attached to this bulletin. If you would like to share it with others, the link is <http://products.pastoral.center/pc/pc105/1/download-covi/Coronavirus.pdf>. *En español:* <http://products.pastoral.center/pc/pc105/1/download-covi/Coronavirus-ES.pdf>

An important reminder that **if you are sick or feeling even remotely unwell, you should not be coming to Holy Mass or other events** as this puts at risk other people, especially the vulnerable, elderly, and immunocompromised. In addition, people returning from out of the country should follow the Ministry of Health's guidelines of being isolated from the public.

The **weekly visits of our Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion** to care facilities and private homes **are suspended** for the time being. Our priests remain completely available to visit the sick and dying. Please do not hesitate to let your needs be known.



Get Immediate Updates!

The parish's emailing and texting network on Flocknote is **the fastest way** to receive information, especially during this time. If you have not signed up and would like to receive these updates, please go to www.flocknote.com/CTRrcav or email Thomas at tchan@ctrwestvan.ca.

It is recommended that you enter both an email and a cell phone number.



Dedicated Giving

Please remember that during this time, the parish expenses continue, and we need your support now more than ever. Would you consider signing up for Dedicated Giving to assist our parish? A form can be found here: <https://www.ctrwestvan.ca/dedicated-giving>, or you can call the office for more info: 604-922-1371.

Catholic Women's League News



CWL General Meeting

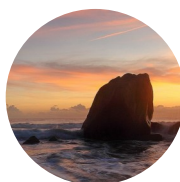
The next CWL Meeting is this **Wednesday, March 18 at 7 p.m.** The CWL welcomes seminarian Joseph McDaniel, speaking on St. Jane de Chantal: A Salesian Model of Holiness - on her life and spirituality.

CWL Bursaries

A North Shore CWL Parish Council Bursary (1 of \$1200) and a Vancouver Diocesan Council Bursary (2 of \$1000 each) are available to the son, daughter, granddaughter, grandson, niece or nephew of an existing North Shore council CWL member or a young CWL member herself. The bursary will be given to a grade 12 student entering the first year of a post-secondary school in the fall of 2020. The Student selected must be a practicing Catholic and is actively involved in church or community at large.

The deadline for submission is **April 9, 2020** for the former and **March 31, 2020** for the latter. For application and more details on eligible criteria, please contact Maria at maria.law@telus.net.

Email directly for any updates on cancellations.



Ladies Evening of Recollection

All ladies are welcome to an evening of recollection given by a priest of Opus Dei tomorrow, **Monday, March 16 at 7 p.m.** in the Mallon Room. There will be a time for Confession, and spiritual books will be available for purchase. For more information, please contact Jessica Choo at jessicachoo@me.com.

Email directly for any updates on cancellations.



Email Fraud Warning

A recent internet email phishing scam has continued to affect our parishioners. Imposters, posing as priests and using email addresses that are similar to those of our priests, have been emailing people asking for personal donations, gift cards and other forms of financial assistance. **Never respond** to emails requesting gift cards or any other form of personal financial assistance, and never give out your personal information online, even if it appears to be from a priest, deacon, religious, or parish staff. If you have any doubt, please contact the 'sender' by other means to verify any requests. You can also email Thomas with any concerns at tchan@ctrwestvan.ca.

A Faith Response to the Coronavirus

The coronavirus outbreak is stirring up anxiety, confusion, and major inconveniences. It is a situation in which we can easily overreact or underreact. How can our faith tradition guide and comfort us through this troubling time?

A good starting point is to remember that the most repeated phrase in the Bible is “Do not be afraid!” or “Have no fear!” God probably sends us this message so frequently because fear is such a big part of human nature. Fear can alert us to dangers in our lives to keep us safe, but fear can also lead us astray, toward selfish responses.

Enough for Everyone

Of course, we see these same dynamics play out in Scripture, where fear leads to hoarding. The most famous story is when the Israelites are in the desert without food (Exodus 16). God rains down manna from heaven but also cautions them to take only what they need for now. They disobey but find that the food they attempt to store away goes bad immediately.

The consistent message we hear in the Bible is that we need to trust in God, who will provide enough for everyone. The problems come when people begin to take more than they need.

Fear of the coronavirus has caused some to stockpile and hoard unreasonable amounts of hand sanitizer, face masks, and other supplies against the recommendations of leaders. The problem is that this wipes out supplies for those who truly need them the most—health care workers and those most vulnerable to the disease—without really making the buyers safer.

Protect the Vulnerable

Scripture and the social teachings of the church remind us again and again that we—as individuals and a society—must protect and give priority to those who are most vulnerable and at risk. We see this from the laws in the Old Testament that looked out for the poor and the widows, to Jesus’ embrace of people on the margins of society, to the early church’s adamant support of those who had less. The Bible urges us to put those who are most at risk first.

In the midst of the coronavirus, the vulnerable take many forms. Most obvious are those who are elderly or

have other health conditions that make them most susceptible to illness. Those who are younger may not be concerned about our own health risks, but if we help pass on the virus, it can be a life-or-death situation for others.

Others are financially vulnerable and do not have the flexibility to take sick leave that many of us take for granted. That puts them in a difficult situation when they become ill and may have to choose between putting their job at risk and staying home to protect others. Likewise, many parents do not have the flexibility to stay home when school is canceled for their children.

The situation is impacting many others, such as small business owners who may already be on shaky financial ground.

A Spirit of Sacrifice

This health crisis is challenging many of us to make sacrifices in our lives. Some are huge, such as those made by exhausted health care workers around the world, desperately trying to keep patients alive (while avoiding the illness themselves).

Other sacrifices fall more in the category of inconveniences. It is inconvenient when events are canceled, schools close, and travel is limited. It is inconvenient to wash our hands intentionally and regularly.

But this kind of sacrifice is at the very center of our faith. Every time we gather around the Lord’s Table, we celebrate the powerful way Christ showed us how to love others. He sacrificed *everything* in self-giving love for us, and he invited us to do the same. In turn, we die to ourselves—through inconveniences and more—in order to love those around us. Truly loving others will always cost us something.

Actions that may not entirely make sense to us can have huge effects. Scientists point to the 1918 flu when St. Louis proactively and aggressively closed its schools to prevent infections. Death rates in the city



were about one third those in Pittsburgh, which was much slower to close its schools. Thousands of lives were saved.

We may grumble about or resist changing our habits, especially if it's unclear what's in it for us. But we need to remember that many of these actions are more about protecting others. Perhaps the invitation amidst this crisis is to embrace the inconveniences fully, and then move *beyond* them to seek out the best ways to serve those who are most in need.

Loving Our Neighbor

Community is essential to us as Christians. We are the Body of Christ, and we know that when two or more gather in Jesus' name, he is present with us. So it may be a bit harder for us to handle the "social distancing" happening in many communities.

Our call to community is not only in the context of our church but also in our neighborhood community. How do we literally love our neighbor? How can we be witnesses on our streets?

One way is to regularly check in on your neighbors who may be vulnerable and isolated. Offer to deliver groceries or other items for them or to run other errands so they won't have to risk infection by leaving their home.

Be a positive, calming influence in any online neighborhood communities. Don't spread rumors or hysteria, but find ways to support each other through the crisis.

Living the Virtues

Ultimately, as with life in general, we are called to live out the four cardinal virtues:

- **Prudence** - Carefully discern the best course of action, not just for ourselves, but for the good of all. Ask: What action does God want me to take?
- **Justice** - Seek fairness for everyone, especially those who need it most. Ask: Who is not getting the help that they need?
- **Temperance** - Find a healthy balance between self care and care for others. Ask: Do I err toward selfishness or an unhealthy co-dependence?
- **Fortitude** - Persevere in times of trial and difficulty. Ask: Do I have the courage to do the right thing even when the going gets tough?

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What You Can Do

- **Stop the spread.** Even if you are not particularly concerned about the risk to yourself or your own family, these tactics will protect *others* who may be more vulnerable. Many of us will carry the virus before having any symptoms (and may never develop any).
 - **Wash your hands well** for at least 20 seconds with soap and water. Sing the refrain to Michael Joncas' song "On Eagle's Wings" ("And he will raise you up...") while you wash.
 - **Avoid touching your face.**
 - **Cough or sneeze into your elbow** or a tissue.
 - **Follow the guidance of local officials.**
 - **Stay home if you become ill.**
- **Don't take what you don't need.** Hoarding worsens the situation, and can lead to more infections and more impacts for the most vulnerable.
 - **Leave the masks to others.** Masks only make sense for health care workers and those who are infected. They are not guaranteed to prevent transmission anyway.
 - **Do not overbuy supplies.** Retailers are being wiped out of disinfectants and other supplies, leaving some who most need them without. Be prepared, but be thoughtful and reasonable.
- **Advocate for the vulnerable and targeted.**
 - **Have compassion for those most at risk.** Stand up for those who need the most help and make sure they are being cared for, without judgment.
 - **Fight racism.** Discrimination against those with Asian background only hurts the situation.
- **Proactively love your neighbor!**
 - **Check in on isolated or vulnerable neighbors** and offer to help with specific tasks such as shopping, child or pet care, cleaning, etc.
 - **If you are in a position of power,** use that power for the good of all. Allow workers to work from home or take time off, limit large gatherings, follow government guidance, etc.
 - **Thank those on the front lines** who are protecting us, such as health care workers, police, firefighters. Be gentle and kind with them.
 - **Pray** for all those affected by the crisis.



Proclaim

Proclaim is a movement designed to provide practical skills for proclaiming Jesus in our homes and communities. It's focused on Alpha and the Discovery faith studies, two evangelization tools that have been successful in the Archdiocese and which our parish runs.

Check out the articles, blogs, and resources available on www.weareproclaim.com.

Seminarian Calendar—Lent 2020



The Vocations Office invites everyone to pray for our seminarians and their priestly formation, especially during Lent.

See the Lenten Seminarian Calendar at <http://vocationsvancouver.ca/seminary/seminarian-calendar-lent-2020/> and pray for a different Vancouver seminarian each day of Lent. You can hover over each date and click on the names to learn more about each seminarian.



Into the Deep

Stop the Buying! Stop the Violence!

Into the Deep is a free bi-monthly series of talks for seeking disciples. The next event is **Friday, March 27 from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m.** at the **John Paul II Pastoral Centre** (4885 Saint John Paul II Way, Vancouver) featuring speaker **Sr. Nancy Brown**. Canada has a good law with regard to prostitution but it needs to be enforced by police, judges and prosecutors.

Come and hear more about what the dynamic of prostitution is, who it affects and who the buyers are. The differences between the abolitionist model, legalization and full decriminalization will be discussed.

All will be presented within the social justice teachings of the Church with respect for the dignity of the human person and preferential option of the poor.

Check for any updates on cancellations. As this is an Archdiocesan event, the parish is not monitoring the status of the event. Email Sr. Angela Marie at samcastellani@rcav.org for updates.

<p><i>Wills & Estates, Real Estate Business Law</i></p> <p>Timothy Jacob Lack</p> <p>BRIDGEHOUSE LAW LLP BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS 604-684-2550 <i>Home visits are available.</i></p>	<p>RDC RADIANCE DENTAL CENTRE WE MAKE YOUR SMILE SHINE</p> <p>Dr. Ewa Lesinska Kostamo, D.M.D. Dr. Hevelin Amorim, D.D.S.</p> <p>604-988-1231 radiancedental7@gmail.com</p> <p>215 Lonsdale Ave, North Vancouver, BC V7M 2E9 Free Patient Parking Available</p>	<p>ARE YOU CONSIDERING A MOVE?</p> <p>CHRIS RADOSEVIC LICENSED REALTOR® 604.724.5031 CHRIS@VPGREALTY.CA</p> <p>VPG REALTY</p>	<p>GARDENS OF <i>Gethsemani</i></p> <p>Set aside your sacred space</p> <p>604-521-2141 rccav.org Surrey, BC</p>
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