



ISSUE 03 // NOVEMBER 2022

# LIFE IN OUR PARISH

DISCIPLESHIP IN ACTION AT CHRIST THE REDEEMER PARISH



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We Call  
Home



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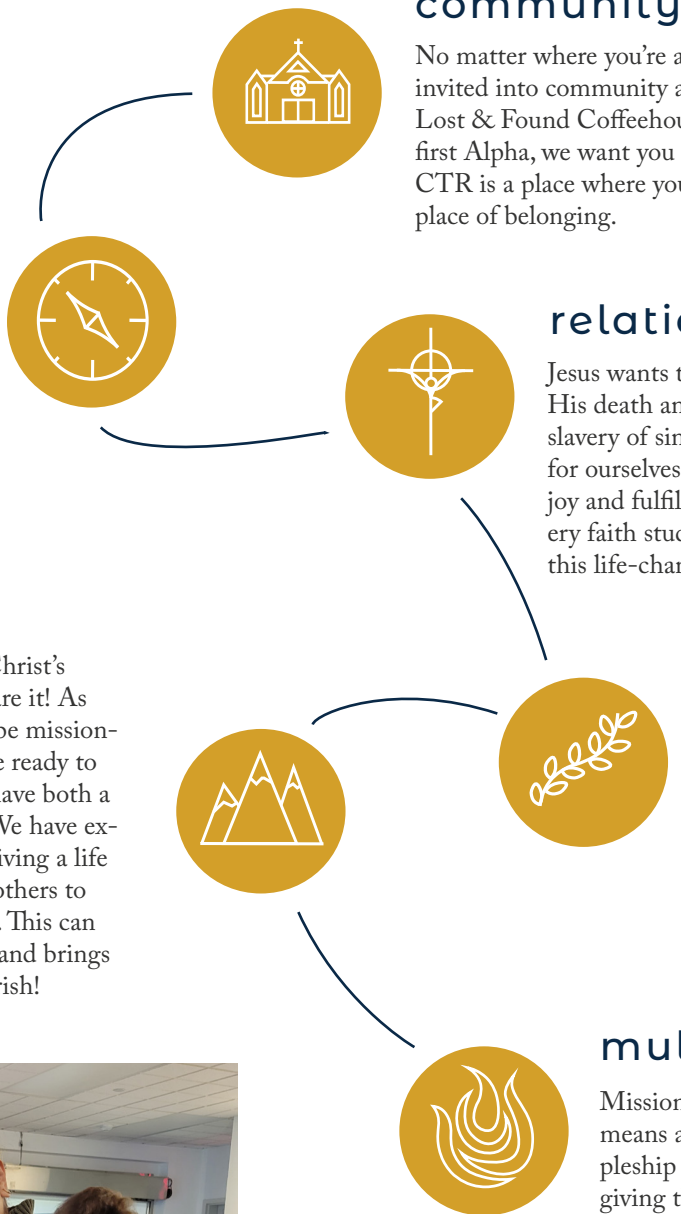
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Since 2018, our parish has spoken about what it looks like to walk along a discipleship path. Over the years we've used various diagrams and terms to describe it, but nothing felt like it fully encompassed the experience of lived discipleship. After much prayer and thought, the 'Life in Our Parish' model was born. Adapted from the discipleship path at St. Patrick's Parish in Maple Ridge, Life in Our Parish provides many entry points for journeying together as disciples. This magazine illustrates each of the stages through the real-life experiences of parishioners. We hope you find the stories inspiring and relatable as you discover your own place in Christ the Redeemer and explore a relationship with Christ Himself.

# REVISITING THE 'LIFE IN OUR PARISH' MODEL

## explore

Once you've experienced community at CTR, we hope you feel that there's something at our parish that you can't find anywhere else. That difference is Jesus. Explore more about Jesus and our Catholic faith so that this 'difference' becomes personal. Water in the Desert is a great way to experience the beauty of the Catholic faith and spend time with Jesus.



## community

No matter where you're at in your faith journey, *everyone* is invited into community at CTR. Whether you're walking into Lost & Found Coffeehouse after Mass or participating in your first Alpha, we want you to feel at home here. It's our hope that CTR is a place where you can find genuine friendship and a place of belonging.

## relationship

Jesus wants to have a relationship with each one of us. His death and resurrection offer us freedom from the slavery of sin, but it's a free gift that we must choose for ourselves. Knowing Jesus as a friend adds greater joy and fulfillment to our walk with God. The Discovery faith study is an excellent way to learn more about this life-changing relationship.

## growth

Discipleship is a life-long journey of continually discovering Jesus as Lord and friend. As we walk in relationship with others and with God, we can come to know Him more deeply. We can do this through things like small faith sharing groups, including the rest of the Faith Studies series.

## multiply

Mission doesn't end with us. Multiplication means accompanying others through the discipleship model by introducing them to Jesus, and giving them the tools to share the Gospel with others. It's a cycle. Multipliers support people who are ready to step out in mission with training, formation, and guidance so that they can renew the Church and ultimately, the world!

## mission

When we have encountered Christ's love, it's natural to want to share it! As Catholics, we are all called to be missionary in our own way, and we are ready to step out in mission when we have both a love for Jesus and for others. We have experienced the difference that living a life with Christ makes, and want others to experience this for themselves. This can be expressed in so many ways and brings a richness to the life of the parish!



# EMBRACING A CULTURE OF ENCOUNTER

by Msgr. Gregory Smith

What is our post-pandemic parish pathway?

Let's put it more simply: how do we seek to love and serve God and neighbour in a changed world? And make no mistake—our parish has changed, even as our world has changed over the past two years.

Not all the changes are bad. We have, for instance, a deeper sense of the value of community and of our need for one another.

Still, we are navigating uncharted waters. Loneliness is at an all-time high and we are all a little more fragile. Admit these changes, Pope Francis offers us some challenging guidance—what he calls “a culture of encounter.” It's a fresh way of looking at living the Gospel and respectfully interacting with others. We are not meant to navigate this world alone.

The Holy Father says that a culture of encounter means being passionate about meeting others, seeking points of contact, building bridges, planning a project that includes everyone.

It's just what we are trying to do at Christ the Redeemer.

Father Philip Waibel of Mount Angel Abbey in Oregon has identified three points of reference and four values that characterize the culture of encounter.

The three reference points are these:

1. Hospitality. An attitude and a practice of listening in an engaged and gentle way and inviting participation—welcoming Christ in others.
2. Dialogue. Above all, respectfully listening to another's point of view because everyone has something important to say. It involves approaching, speaking, listening, and engaging with one another.
3. Commitment. Persevering in our desire to seek the

The culture of encounter is a call to responsibility in an age of entitlement.

- Archbishop Paul Gallagher



good of the community as well as the common good.

The four values at work in a culture of encounter are these:

1. Humility. C.S. Lewis reminds us that: “True humility is not thinking less of yourself, it is thinking of yourself less.” While recognizing the truth about our deepest selves, we recognize the dignity of the other person.
2. Generosity. Being fearless and generous in the ways in which we look beyond our own needs and wants to those of others. Courage and generosity in sharing time and resources are needed in order to establish and achieve our shared goals.
3. Realism. Not looking at what would be ideal or perfect, but what is possible. As Pope Francis has said, we can’t be perfect, but we can at least do what we can and settle our disagreements.
4. Patience. One virtue that marked the early Christian communities was loving patience, recognizing that important things need time, change is organic, and there are limits within which we have to work while keeping our eyes on the goal.

The Holy Father’s concept of a culture of encounter applies one-on-one – in a family – in a parish – in a community – or even among nations..

A Vatican archbishop recently said, “The culture of encounter is a call to responsibility in an age of entitlement.”

Our parish has a responsibility: not only to worship God but to be a place of welcome to the wounded—to at least begin to fix what is broken in our polarized and sometimes hostile world. It is a place where one can come to be known, to belong, and to encounter love –in one another and ultimately in God.

Pope Francis’s approach both offers much to our parish and aligns with how we already strive to behave at Christ the Redeemer. In his own words, let us “fight the good fight of the culture of encounter!”



*The parish magazine is part of our effort to build a culture of encounter at CTR. Have you enjoyed this edition? Please let us know by filling out a short survey using this QR code (or visiting [rebrand.ly/ctrmagazinesurvey](https://rebrand.ly/ctrmagazinesurvey)). Complete before December 31 to be entered into a draw to win a \$50 Amazon gift card.*



# AN ANTIDOTE TO LONELINESS IN A CUP OF COFFEE

By Krista Greig

The lost sheep. The misplaced coin. The prodigal son. We've all felt lost, and deep down we all want to be seen and known. There is joy in being cared for and in being found.

Many of us have felt lost during the pandemic. We were separated from loved ones and our usual routines were thrown to the wayside.

Christ the Redeemer wanted to offer an antidote to the loneliness felt by so many during the pandemic. A few of the parish team visited Holy Grounds Coffeehouse at St. Patrick's Parish in Maple Ridge prior to the pandemic. There, we found a place of welcome and community like we had never seen before. It was so inspiring that we were compelled to start our own coffeehouse at CTR.

"Our desire for the coffeehouse was to create a beautiful welcoming space for school



parents, parishioners, and neighbours to gather. We wanted it to be a place to reconnect after a long two years of COVID and a place to build new friendships over a cup of coffee and a homemade pastry," says Shawna Zadeiks, one of the friendly faces you'll see when you stop by Lost & Found. "It is our hope that you feel at home when you are here."

And at home you are. Lost & Found has been something of a home to parishioners, school parents, friends, and neighbours alike. One parishioner shared this:

"If the Lost and Found Coffeehouse is able to make a difference for just one person, it has succeeded. I have been lost and slowly I have been found with my beautiful parishioners whom I have been able to visit and share with. Having this open space in the parish to come and go, knowing that there is always someone there on certain days, is just what I needed. I know that there are plenty more that feel the same. Thank you for this."

It's clear to many that the success of Lost & Found is not due only to the friendly parishioners who staff it, but also to something greater.

*"Having this open space in the parish to come and go, knowing that there is always someone there on certain days, is just what I needed. I know that there are plenty more that feel the same."*



“Every time I work a shift at Lost & Found Coffeehouse, I feel the Holy Spirit at work,” Karen Magee shares. “Many times it’s through parishioners coming in to be together and wanting to grow more in their faith and asking great questions. Other times it’s other Catholics who heard about the coffeehouse and have dropped in after Mass to discuss where the Lord is leading them currently.”

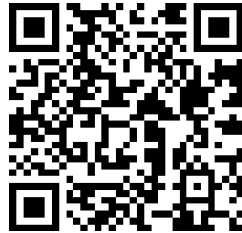
Recently we had a young couple come in from the neighbourhood. As I started talking with them, I realized I knew them from the community years ago. We had a great conversation about where they are at in life and again you could feel the Spirit moving amongst us with this young couple who were curious but not Catholic. They both enjoyed their visit to the coffeehouse and said they would return.”

“We have been open now since June and the outpouring of gratitude for the space has been nothing short of overwhelming,” says Shawna.

“It’s a place to share all sorts of chats and it’s a place of joy and laughter,” Maureen Giefing shares. “It’s only the beginning.”



*Lost & Found is open a few times during the week; the hours are listed on our website at [ctrwestvan.ca/lostandfound](http://ctrwestvan.ca/lostandfound). Scan the QR code (or go to [rebrand.ly/ctrpavideo2022](https://rebrand.ly/ctrpavideo2022)) for a video feature of Lost & Found from the Archdiocese of Vancouver.*



**LOST &  
FOUND**  
COFFEEHOUSE





# THE OASIS AT WATER IN THE DESERT

Whether you're Catholic or not, walking into to a church for the first time during Eucharistic Adoration can be confusing. Do I sit or kneel? What is being sung in Latin? What's the meaning of it all?

Simply put, Adoration is the worship of Jesus in the Eucharist outside of Mass. Because we believe Jesus is present body, blood, soul, and divinity in the Eucharist, He can not only be received at Mass but also adored. If that sounds daunting, there's a more simple way to put it: Adoration is an opportunity to spend time with Jesus, face to face, as you would if you were going to meet a friend for coffee.

When asked how she spent her time during Adoration, Mother Teresa replied, "I look at God, and He looks at me." *Water in the Desert* is a monthly event at CTR created to do just that; allow people to come and sit in Jesus' presence and simply *be*. It's a place to find rest and refreshment and take time out to listen to the Lord's

voice in a world where it can be hard to hear Him.

Here's what people have been saying about *Water in the Desert*:

"We love going to *Water in the Desert* because it is a great way to be with Jesus and it is quiet and calm. We also love the social gathering after – so much fun!" (*Matias and Gemma, ages 11 and 8*)

"It was a peaceful time to connect with God, just to be with Him. The reflections [on the screens] and quiet time were important for me to just be peaceful and quiet, and the testimonies were impactful." (*Jessica*)

"With a busy life and mind constantly racing with distractions, the hour to meditate was a profound experience. It opens a door into yourself and allows us to face ourselves and the part of us that we know we have been putting off. It gives you time to think about the things you know you need to, the knot [in your life] you need to untie. It's the best experience. I recommend it to everyone, even the non-religious. My burdens were lifted at the end and it felt amazing. It's the closest I've felt to feeling the presence of God." (*Bruce*)

"Unlike Mass, nothing was expected of me or anyone else. The Lord looked at us from the altar and we looked at Him. I didn't have to sing, which was good because I didn't know the songs anyway. The music was like prayerful oil poured out from the loft." (*Msgr Smith*)

## Beginner's guide to Adoration

1. Get comfortable. Sit or kneel in a position that allows you to focus on Jesus in the Eucharist in front of you.
2. Express your gratitude to God for a few things that come to mind, whether big or small. You may be simply grateful to be here right now!
3. Share with God your worries, concerns, or whatever else might be in your heart. You could do this in the form of journaling or mental prayer.
4. Pause to listen. This can look like closing your eyes and breathing deeply, allowing the Lord to lift your burdens and replace them with His presence.
5. If you feel inspired, you may wish to journal what comes to mind. If you feel restless, try reading a passage from Scripture, perhaps the readings of the day or of the next Sunday, found in the missal in the pew. Does anything stand out to you?
6. Close by thanking the Lord for his inspirations and blessings during this time, even if you didn't feel anything. Adoration is not always an emotional experience, but it is always filled with many consolations (blessings) from God.

*Water in the Desert happens one Saturday each month from 7-8pm, followed by a social. Check [ctrwestvan.ca/waterinthedesert](http://ctrwestvan.ca/waterinthedesert) for upcoming dates.*







L-R: Anthony, Nick and Daniel



## YOUTH MINISTRY: “A SAFE SPACE TO TALK ABOUT FAITH”

*A conversation with Daniel, Nick and  
Rebecca*

**Daniel, Nick, and Rebecca have all been a part of CTR Youth Ministry since they started high school. The trio met at Searching in the Spirit, a week-long camp for newly Confirmed youth entering Grade 8. Now in Grade 11, they share how YM helped sustain their faith and community throughout the years, including during the pandemic.**

### *How did you become a part of Youth Ministry?*

Nick (N): I think I joined youth ministry in Grade 6 or 7. Grade 7 was the first time Anchor happened and I went to it as a preview for Grade 8. I loved it and I wondered how I could help volunteer.

Rebecca (R): For me it was Searching in the Spirit. My parish at the time had a youth program but it wasn't developed the same way CTR's was. Community is a big thing for me, so it was nice to find that here. It started the summer before Grade 8 for me. I also went to Spirit Day in Grade 7 – it was really cool to see all the community.

Daniel (D): That [Spirit Day] did feel nice. I did PREP; that somewhat gets you into your faith but it's more like school. The Spirit Day thing was a new thing for my faith.

### *What have you been involved in with Youth Ministry and at the parish?*

N: Searching in the Spirit, Anchor, a lot of other ministries – Door Is Open, Men's Hostel Ministry, the live-in at the Abbey...and lots more that I can't remember!

R: Searching in the Spirit, volunteering at Searching this past summer, Campus Ministry at St. Thomas Aquinas High School.

D: Campus Ministry, Anchor, Searching in the Spirit.

### *How did YM help you stay connected to your faith during the pandemic?*

N: It gave me a goal, something to achieve. I wouldn't classify my faith during the pandemic as a success; it maybe deteriorated a bit during the pandemic, but it gave me something to work towards.

R: I've been saying community is a big thing for me; not being able to be in community at youth group was difficult. The church is one body, so it was harder to connect in that body when you're missing an arm, so to speak.

D: During quarantine, things weren't going well for all of us. Like Nick said, faith seriously deteriorated during the pandemic. After the pandemic, I thought “I should try this faith thing again” and it was

*“I kind of feel like  
St. Paul: “Let's try  
this Jesus thing out.”  
I want to have that  
conversion.”*



Rebecca at  
Searching in the Spirit

so good. I kind of feel like St. Paul: "Let's try this Jesus thing out." I want to have that conversion.

***Would you say YM helped you stay connected?***

N and R: Yes!

R: Like Nick said, it was something to look forward to every month.

***What now? Now that you've had this experience in YM, how do you hope to "use" it?***

R: I've enjoyed Youth Ministry and leading camps in general, so I'd like to do more. It's made me realize that I like working with kids and with people who share faith with me.

D: I want to be like St. Paul; having an encounter with Jesus and going out to live it (faith) out. Paul went everywhere; I can't go everywhere, I'm limited. But I want to live it how he did; have that one encounter and go out.

N: I would like to make stronger disciples. There are teens I know who have the faith that I think, if given the opportunity, could be built up to a much better place in their faith and be even stronger. I'd like to invite them to things like Discovery, retreats, a men's group... We're starting a men's group! We haven't had our first meeting yet, but soon.



***What do you hope for those who join YM in the future? What do you want to see?***

D: I would like to see people grow into an adult-like faith and grow stronger with God.

R: Because Youth Ministry is away from school it feels like a safe space to talk about faith. For some people that's really important. A lot of developing your faith in school is looking at what "level" of faith others are at and staying on pace with them.

N: I agree, we need to have a safe space to talk about faith. It would be great to have things available for people at different stages. We're all the same age but not the same stage of faith. I'd love more opportunities to volunteer in different areas, more praise & worship, and more opportunities for growth.

*Anchor, our monthly Youth Ministry event for teens in Grades 8-12, happens on the first Sunday of the month following the 5 pm Mass. Visit [ctrwestvan.ca/youthministry](http://ctrwestvan.ca/youthministry).*





# AN UNEXPECTED MISSION

By Larissa Rossen

When I used to hear about having a missionary mindset, I was intimidated. I thought I had to go out and ‘find’ my mission or wait for God to open up the skies and reveal it to me. But I’ve discovered that God finds us right where we are and asks us to share his love using our gifts and circumstances.

Although people often say that I’m a friendly and cheerful person, I’m no stranger to suffering. It’s a cross I didn’t ask to bear, but for those who don’t know my story, 2020 was the most difficult year of my life, and not because of COVID.

That February, we lost our otherwise healthy baby, Brayden, during his birth. I was devastated, but I felt God draw close to me in this time like never before. Alongside grief like I had never known, I felt his unshakable presence and faithfulness through Mother Mary and the rosary.

At the time I was taking an online faith study at CTR, and each scripture verse we read leapt off the page at me, especially the words of the Apostle Paul: “In order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh... I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, my grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness” (2 Corinthians 12:7-8). I was especially captivated by Paul’s perseverance in never giving up hope despite his suffering.

I had heard about having a ‘missionary mindset’ in the Church before, but it didn’t fully click until we lost Brayden. The more I felt God’s loving presence, the more I wanted to share his love with others. As a registered therapist, I found my mission in Elizabeth Ministry and a Moms & Tots group at the parish.

Elizabeth Ministry is a Catholic ministry that offers

support, hope, and healing to grieving parents and family members who have lost a child during pregnancy or postpartum. When I became involved with Elizabeth Ministry, I saw it as a healthy way to process my grief, but what I didn’t expect was the sense of community and connection to Brayden that I experienced. It became a way of serving God and others, while also honouring my son.

After losing Brayden, we were delighted to give birth to our very lively daughter, Ava, in June last year. With another mom, Alex, we decided to start a Moms & Tots

group in our parish to bring together moms and their kids. It’s a place where we can connect and support one another and also be a light to other moms in the community. We were thrilled to have our first group in September.

For me, mission is waking up each day and asking God “what do you have for me today?” and being obedient to the Holy Spirit’s promptings. I believe God

uses each one of us and all of our gifts and circumstances, if we are willing, to share his love throughout the world. Even despite our shortcomings and sufferings, God’s light shines through us and into the world. We just have to be willing to say YES!

*“[Elizabeth Ministry] became a way of serving God and others, while also honouring my son.”*

*If you have children aged 0-5 years, you’re invited to Moms & Tots! We meet on the last Wednesday of the month at 10 am in Lost & Found Coffeehouse.*





# BECOMING AN IRRESISTIBLE PARISH

By Krista Greig

Christ the Redeemer is a special place. For many of us who call CTR our parish, it has become a second home. New friendships, comfort in challenging times, small groups, Mass, faith formation and volunteer hours – all of it has happened inside these parish walls (and often in the parking lot, too!). We have something here worth sharing and we hope that it is contagious to anyone who enters our doors. In a simple phrase, we want to become a truly *irresistible parish*.

What does an irresistible parish look like for CTR? It's a home where Jesus is alive and the Holy Spirit moves. It's a family of faith rooted in deep prayer and worship. It's a community made up of rich connections that go beyond Sunday worship, where the desire to serve is more than simply a sense of duty. We want to be known as a community of disciples who are attractive to others because of the joy, purpose, and generosity that stems from a personal relationship with Jesus.

So how do we get there? For our parish to become truly irresistible, it requires engagement from all of us who are already here. We must be ready to receive those who come through our doors. Do you want to be part of an irresistible parish? *We need you!*

There are three things we can do to ready ourselves: pray, lead, and invite.

**1. Pray.** To see renewal in the larger Church, and especially in our parish, we need a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit. If this vision of becoming an irresistible parish is truly inspired by the Holy Spirit, we must rely on Him to see it through. Praying



to the Holy Spirit is not only for those who have a charismatic expression of faith. We all can and should be praying for the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives and in our parish. What does this look like? The Holy Spirit is the person of the Trinity who inspires and enlivens our faith. We can ask daily for the Holy Spirit to give us a courageous and joy-filled faith so that we can give witness to others. Jot down one way you hope to see your faith grow in the next year and pray 'Come, Holy Spirit' each morning as you begin your day.

**2. Lead.** When it comes to being an irresistible parish, we need everyone. Currently, we lean heavily on just a few selfless leaders who balance multiple ministries for the sake of bringing others to Christ. This is a beautiful gift, but we need more volunteers to keep our ministries healthy. At the

parish office I've had people take interest in a faith study, only to find out that there isn't a group for them right now because no leaders are available. I see youth who are hungry for more but a team who, though strong, aren't numerous enough to meet this need.

If you find yourself hesitant to jump in and take on a role within the parish, ask yourself what barrier is holding you back from taking the next step? If time is a factor, I challenge you to reflect on where you might be able to give one hour of your time each week, or a few hours of your time each quarter. If it's fear of feeling like you aren't talented, holy or smart enough to lead, please know that this is not true. We are all capable of growing as disciples and as leaders, but



we have to know our gifts and be supported in using them. If you want to step up and join us, come talk to me. I would love to help you discern your gifts and provide coaching and support as you begin to lead in whatever ministry you feel called to.

Serving is not only necessary for the sake of others, but also for yourself! St. Pope John Paul II says in his encyclical, *Redemptoris Missio*: “For missionary activity renews the Church, revitalizes faith and Christian identity, and offers fresh enthusiasm and new incentive. Faith is strengthened when it is given to others!” One needs only to look to our Alpha and Faith Study leaders to know how true this statement is. Leaders tell me they gain energy, joy, and gratitude from leading and from pouring out to others. And we are so grateful for them!

- 3. Invite.** As we begin to build an irresistible parish, others will naturally be attracted to our joy, but first they must be invited! Invitation is what will grow the Church. People are infinitely more likely to say yes to something when they’re personally invited to it, be that Alpha, a faith study, Lost & Found, or something else. Wouldn’t you rather go to a party, an event or a course if someone you knew was going to be there? Invitation is the beginning of relationship, and you never know who you might grow a friendship with through a simple offer to join you in some sort of outreach activity, or Mass and Sunday brunch.

If you’re reading this and aren’t engaged in ministry, please consider this your personal invitation to more – more faith, more joy and more growth as a disciple. I would love you get to know you better and talk about how you can get involved. Find me in Lost & Found during open hours or call the office to schedule a meeting with me. There is room for everyone to serve, whether it’s a little or a lot. I look forward to getting to know you better!

*Krista can be reached by email at [kgreig@ctrwestvan.ca](mailto:kgreig@ctrwestvan.ca).*



kissmediaTV

★★★★★ 2 hours ago

Just wow! I was in West Vancouver and popped in for their 9am Mass. There are so many good things going for this parish. The choir was beautiful, the homily was delivered with passion, and there was a special feeling of reverence throughout. The choir even used crescendos! They have many modern touches to keep their members connected. So well done.

## Members of the PPC share:

### *What do you love about CTR?*

Connection. The feeling of belonging, knowing so many parishioners, feeling fuller even after leaving.

The beauty of the parish and the excellence with which we do everything – liturgies, music, flowers, rooms, etc.

### *What drives you batty about the parish?*

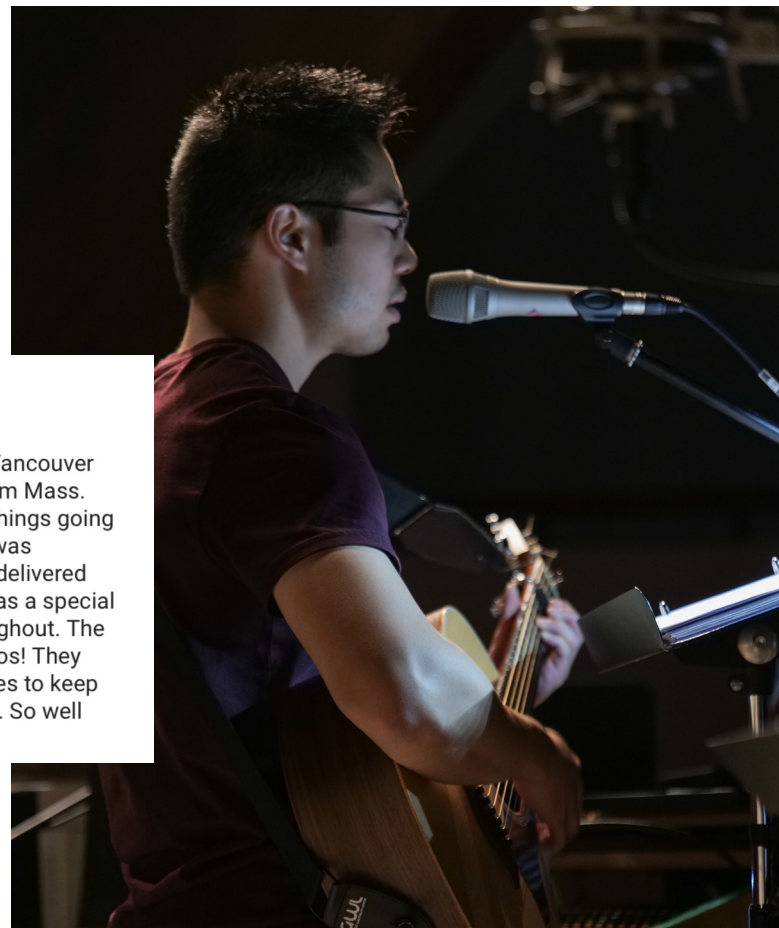
Parishioners here who aren’t getting the full experience of what we have going. Lots of “pedestrians” (walk in and walk out quickly) but don’t engage in the community.

Difficulty finding volunteers. People are still volunteering at 80, which we’re so grateful for, but not many feel compelled to step up and join them.

### *Imagine you walk into the parish three years from now. What has changed for the better?*

We become known as a place in the community where, Catholic or not, you can come and sit in peace, go into the coffeehouse to talk to someone if you’re down, and find people who care about you.

People would be found in the parish outside of Mass and program hours.





## GET TO KNOW QUIERO CONOCER LA VERDAD!

You can hear it before you enter the room: the enthusiastic chatter in Spanish, the laughter, and the exuberant welcomes. There are many things at a church that can bring a group of women together, but this particular group is special.

Quiero Conocer la Verdad, or QCV for short, translates to “I want to know the truth.” It’s a group of Spanish-speaking ladies who gather to connect, learn, and grow together.

Claudia Fraga, the group’s current leader, shares how QCV started 12 years ago as a close, hospitable group that gathered in a friend’s home. When the leader had to move back to Mexico, one of the other ladies kept the momentum going by gathering at the parish. Claudia took the reins from that leader.

At first, Claudia was reluctant to lead. “I felt unworthy and unfit, but I could not let go of this wonderful opportunity that our parish was offering to us. So, I left everything in God’s hands and just tried to do my best. At first it took me hours to prepare each class because I felt a huge responsibility and I wanted to do it really well. Marianella’s support has always been key, we decided that together we could do it.”

QCV offers great catechesis and engaging teaching, but Claudia notes that the community of ladies is key. When she first moved to Vancouver, she and her husband knew no one. They had a toddler and were on their own. She recalls sitting in front of their gas fireplace one night and gazing at the unfamiliar pilot light flickering. It spurred a thought: “If the gas escapes and we don’t wake up tomorrow, no one would notice.”

“Most of the ladies at QCV don’t have any family here. It not only helps to deepen their faith but also supports them,” Claudia says.

“It is a very special group for those of us who are a part of it,” says Paula Pelletier. “As Latinas outside of our countries it is very pleasant to make new friends, meet other people with the same ideals, beliefs, concerns, and desire to increase our faith.”

Something that makes QCV stand out in the parish is its incredible ability to multiply. The current group is made up of almost entirely new members, some coming in through St. Anthony’s School (SAS) or St. Thomas Aquinas High School (STA), and others being invited by current QCV members when they’re out in the city.

“I just invite people whenever I see an opportunity; wherever I hear the Spanish language I invite them to this Latin group,” says Marianella Rojas. “I would like them to have the same wonderful and amazing experience I had. I feel blessed to be part of this group and this parish, and this is my way to give thanks to God – by reaching out to more people.”



Andreina Gonzalez, another member of QCV, invites parents she knows from SAS and her friends from other groups in Vancouver. “[These friends] aren’t necessarily close to their Catholic faith. I try to invite them once in awhile and some of them have come to QCV and like it a lot. You don’t have to be really devout to come but

the hope is that this would get them closer to the faith.”

Karla Chinchilla, one of the newer members of QCV, was invited to join by one of the members she knows from her children’s school, STA. She shares:

*“QCV makes me feel closer to God and more aware of my faith. I love sharing what I learn with my family because it opens up our conversation towards Catholicism and helps us explore different aspects of it. QCV also made me part of a new community of amazing ladies with whom I share values and who have welcomed me with open arms.”*

QCV is an example of missionary discipleship and multiplication; those who grow closer to Jesus through QCV can’t help but go out and invite others to join them. This hasn’t just benefitted the new members, but also those who’ve been involved for some time.

“I’ve grown a lot in my faith,” Claudia says. “By leading QCV, I’ve learned a lot and have realized that you never stop learning.”



Puedes escucharlas desde antes de entrar: las charlas entusiastas en español, las risas, la camaradería y la cariñosa bienvenida por parte de nuestras anfitrionas. Hay muchas cosas que se pueden hacer para que un grupo de mujeres se reúna, pero este grupo en particular es muy especial.

Quiero Conocer la Verdad (QCV) es un grupo de mujeres de habla hispana que se reúnen regularmente para conectarse, aprender y crecer juntas.

Claudia Fraga, quien es la actual coordinadora del grupo, nos comparte la historia de cómo QCV comenzó hace 12 años. Era un grupo privado que se reunía en la casa de una buena amiga. Cuando la líder tuvo que regresar a México, otra tomó control y comenzaron entonces a reunirse en la iglesia. Más tarde, Claudia tomó el liderazgo.

Al principio, Claudia no estaba segura si debía hacerlo: “No me sentía lo suficientemente preparada, pero no podía dejar perder esta maravillosa oportunidad que nuestra parroquia nos ofrecía, así que decidí dejar todo en manos de Dios y simplemente hacer mi mejor esfuerzo. Al principio me tomaba muchas horas preparar cada clase, porque sentía una gran responsabilidad y quería que todo saliera muy bien. El apoyo de Marianella ha sido siempre fundamental, entre las dos decidimos que juntas lo lograríamos.”

El valor de QCV va más allá de tener una gran presentación y contenido didáctico. Claudia tiene la firme creencia que crear una comunidad de mujeres latinas es muy importante, pues cuando se mudaron a Vancouver no tenían conocidos, eran solo ella, su esposo y su hijo de dos años. Recuerda la primera noche, sentados frente a la chimenea vieron la llama del piloto moviéndose de una manera poco usual y comentaron: “Si el gas se llegara a salir y mañana no despertamos, nadie lo notaría”.

“La mayoría de las integrantes de QCV no tienen familiares aquí. Este grupo no

sólo les ayuda a incrementar su fe, sino también es un grupo de apoyo y amistad”, nos comenta Claudia.

“Es un grupo muy especial para todas aquellas que se han integrado a él”, nos dice Paula Pelletier. “Como latinas fuera de nuestros países, es muy agradable hacer nuevas amigas, conocer gente con nuestros mismos ideales, creencias, preocupaciones y deseos de incrementar nuestra fe en Cristo”.

Lo que hace que QCV sobresalga dentro de la comunidad de nuestra Parroquia es la gran habilidad que tienen de multiplicarse. El actual grupo está compuesto en su mayoría por gente que viene o de San Anthony’s School (SAS), o de St. Thomas Aquinas High School (STA), o que ha sido invitada por alguna de las integrantes del grupo fuera de la iglesia.

“Yo simplemente invito gente siempre que veo la oportunidad de hacerlo: en el momento que escucho que hablan español, me les acerco, comienzo a platicar con ellas y las invito a nuestro grupo de habla hispana”, dice Marianella Rojas. Y continúa: “Me gusta que la gente tenga la misma maravillosa experiencia que yo tuve cuando llegué. Me siento bendecida de ser parte de este grupo de Christ the Redeemer, y ésta es mi manera de agradecer a Dios: compartir e invitar a más gente para que vivan lo que yo he vivido aquí”.

Andreina González, es otro miembro del grupo de QCV y siempre está en la continua búsqueda de nuevas participantes. Invita a las mamás que conoce de SAS y a otras personas que pertenecen a diferentes grupos en Van-

couver. Ellas no necesariamente están cerca de su fe, trato de invitarlas de vez en cuando y algunas se han integrado a QCV y les encanta venir. No es necesario ser muy devota para venir, pero tenemos la esperanza de que viniendo puedan profundizar en su fe y conocer gente maravillosa”.

Karla Chinchilla, quien es una de las nuevas integrantes del grupo, fue invitada por una de las mamás que conoce de la escuela de sus hijos (STA): “QCV me hace sentir más comprometida y cercana a Dios y me hace estar más consciente de mi fe. Amo compartir con mi familia lo que aprendo durante las sesiones, ya que abre temas de conversación relativos al catolicismo y nos ayuda a explorar sus diferentes aspectos. QCV me permitió integrarme a una nueva comunidad de mujeres maravillosas con quienes comparto los mismos valores y quienes me han recibido con los brazos abiertos.”

Quiero Conocer la Verdad, es un claro ejemplo de misión y multiplicación de nuestra fe católica. Quienes se acercan a Jesús a través de QCV no pueden evitar salir e invitar a otras para que experimenten el gozo de conocer más acerca de la fe y de ser parte de esta increíble comunidad. Esta misión no sólo beneficia a las nuevas integrantes, sino también llena de alegría a aquellas que han sido parte del grupo por más tiempo.

“Mi fe se ha incrementado considerablemente en estos últimos años” dice Claudia. “Ser la líder de QCV me ha enseñado mucho sobre nuestra fe y me ha hecho darme cuenta de que nunca dejamos de aprender. He recibido infinitamente más que puedo dar.”

*If you're interested in joining QCV, please contact Claudia via the parish office at [office@ctrwestvan.ca](mailto:office@ctrwestvan.ca)*



CHRIST THE REDEEMER PARISH  
599 KEITH ROAD  
WEST VANCOUVER, BC V7T 1L8

CONTACT US:  
604-922-1371  
OFFICE@CTRWESTVAN.CA

## MASS SCHEDULE

### SUNDAY MASSES:

SATURDAY 5:00 PM  
SUNDAY 9:00 AM  
SUNDAY 11:00 AM  
SUNDAY 5:00 PM

### WEEKDAY MASSES:

MONDAY 8:15 AM  
TUESDAY 8:15 AM  
WEDNESDAY 9:00 AM  
THURSDAY 8:15 AM  
FRIDAY 8:15 AM  
SATURDAY 9:00 AM

**PUBLIC HOLIDAYS 9:00 AM**



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