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St. Mary by the Sea Catholic Church

PO Box 390 275 S Pacific Street Rockaway Beach OR 97136

December 13, 2020

We are a loving, supportive, and vibrant Catholic community committed to being a welcoming parish family by spreading the Love of Jesus Christ throughout our community and into the world.



LIFE MESSAGES FROM TODAY'S GOSPEL

The spiritual joy that marks the Christian faith, which we are waiting for, is the coming of the Lord, and our entry into a life of eternal communion with God. And the willingness to bear our share of the Christian work-load, to do our bit, in our time, to realize the goals of Jesus in our world.

John the Baptist was a voice crying in the wilderness, a voice to invite people into relationship with God. We too are asked to use our voice to make Christ known. We can use our gift of communication to spread faith in Christ and illustrate his values and his attitudes. In our behavior too, we can let the Lord communicate through us. If we realize our calling to be witnesses to the light, it can shape how we live and explains why we live the way we do.

In these times of economic hardships and budget cuts that are endlessly debated, there is no harm in being reminded of the blessings in our lives, our reasons to be joyful.

It is especially important during the Advent season that we reflect Christ's sharing love and his unconditional forgiveness through our lives. There are too many people who live in darkness and poverty, and others who lack real freedom because of their evil addictions and bad choices. There are others who are deafened and blinded by the cheap attractions of the world. Many others feel lonely, unwanted, rejected, and marginalized.

Let us bring the true Light of Christ to illuminate the lives of all these brothers and sisters during this Advent season through sharing our love, overflowing mercy, unconditional forgiveness, and humble service.

We will be able to accomplish this witnessing mission of radiating Christ's Light by repenting of our sins, asking God's pardon every day, and by renewing our lives through our daily prayers - by seeking the Sacrament of Reconciliation, by attending and taking part in the Eucharistic celebration, by reading the Bible daily in meditative, prayerful fashion, and by performing the corporal and spiritual works of mercy where we see these actions are needed.