

If you have a local business and would like to have your information included on this page, please contact Doris in the office or send your information to PO Box 390, Rockaway Beach 97136. There is no charge but donations will be accepted.

## St. Mary by the Sea Catholic Church

PO Box 390 275 S Pacific Street Rockaway Beach OR 97136

# January 6-7, 2024 The Epiphany of the Lord



#### **PASTOR:**

Fr. Macdonald Akuti, AJ padreakuti@gmail.com

#### **MASS SCHEDULE**

Sunday: 8:30 am and 10:30 am Saturday: 5 pm (Vigil for Sunday) Mon, Wed, Thur, Fri. 9:30 am Confessions: Saturday 4 – 4:45pm

#### **OFFICE HOURS**

Wednesday - Friday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

#### ST. MARY BT THE SEA CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

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.

#### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Parish websites: stmarybythesea.com Facebook.com/stmarybythesearockawaybeach Parish email: stmarys1927@gmail.com Parish Office Phone: 503-355-2661

### **PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday - 9AM - 3PM Closed Monday and Tuesday.

#### **PARISH STAFF:**

#### Pastor:

Fr. Macdonald Akuti, AJ padreakuti@gmail.com 424-410-0097 **Secretary**: Doris Matthews

stmarys1927doris@gmail.com 503-355-2661

**Bookkeeper:** Lauri Conway

#### **PASTORAL MINISTRIES**

FINANCE COUNCIL: Father Akuti, Phillip Curtis, Loretta Schutten, Therese Southwick, David Conway, and Tony Vinciguerra
PARISH COUNCIL: Father Akuti, Steve Bloom, Chris Bloom, Gloria Lyons, Alicia Voss, Michelle Vinciguerra, Gladys Jacobsen, Carla McGillivray, and Paul Erlebach.

**AMAZING PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM**; Father Akuti, Lauri Conway, Loretta Schutten, Alicia Voss, and Bruce Broswick.

HOSPITALITY MINISTRY: Loretta Schutten, Cynthia Sinn, Theresa Bruneau, Terri Southwick, Chris Bloom, and Michelle Vinciguerra.

CHOIR: Wayne Schultz, Dorence Cote, Anna Buchanan, Cynthia Sinn,

Chris Gant, Diane Gant, and Israel Pozos' group.

LECTOR & EM COORDINATOR: Alicia Voss

FAITH FORMATION: Louise Rosas

FAITH FURWIATION: Louise Rosa

<u>CELEBRATE RECOVERY</u>: Steve Bloom, Wayne Schultz, Mike Davis. <u>CIRCLE OF CARING</u>: Ethel Pierzynski, Marie Hennessy, Rhoda

Degiovanni, Reta Girdner, and Mary Filker. CHURCH FLOWER DECOR: Gloria Lyons

<u>GARDENING:</u> Catherine Imbrie & Marie Hennessey <u>MAINTENANCE:</u> Wayne Schultz & Mike Davis

## THIS WEEKS SCHEDULE **ALL EVENTS, MASS TIMES AND**

**INTENTIONS Saturday** January 6 First Saturday Mass 8:30 am Mass 5 pm **Dexter Massey** Sunday January 7 Mass 8:30 am Bonnie Williams and Mike A Mass 10:30 am People of the Parish Monday **January 8** Rod Verette and Cara Brown Mass 9:30 am **Tuesday** January 9 No Mass Wednesday January 10 Mass 9:30 am John Bender Celebrate Recovery 5:30 pm **Thursday** January 11 Mass 9:30 am Michael Sandoval Adoration after Mass until noon Circle of Caring 10 am Friday January 12

Robert Bender

Mass 9:30 am

#### REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

#### A TIME FOR HEALING AND SORROW:

Please pray for Alan Pope, Mike Franciscone, Mary Alger, Ethel Pierczynski, Ron Peterson, Lisa Gibbons, Christina Guccione, Harold Stern, Diane Reed, Ed Seeger, Cathy McAllister, Mark Wustenberg, Robert Fulks, Al and Dorothy Giacchero, Sharon Cote, Donna Molendyke, Jill Mulvey, and all those who are sick or who need healing. Also pray for Bob Foreman, Andy Mahindru, Lamar O'leary, Gwen Medina, John Ritter, Joseph Douherty, Joao Pinto Jr., Nancy McGillis, Brixton, Pope Benedict, Art Pieretti, Marilou Bowman, and all those who have died recently and for those who have asked for our prayers

A TIME FOR JOY AND CELEBRATION: We pray for all those who are celebrating a Birthday, Anniversary, or other special occasion this week. Happy Birthday to Deborah Jack and Andrew Staruch who is 104

#### **PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

MARDI GRAS PARTY: Come and join us on February 10<sup>th</sup> to celebrate Mardi Gras. Tim Croman's Band "NE Day Now" will be providing the music and it will be a fun celebration for all. More details to come.

**SENIOR MEALS** does such a wonderful job providing food and fellowship to all the seniors in our community. They are in need of some volunteers who can help in the kitchen. If you are able and interested in helping on a Monday, Wednesday or Friday, please stop in and talk to them.

BIRTHDAY SUNDAY: Join us after both Sunday Masses to celebrate everyone who has a birthday this Month.

MISSION APPEAL: The Apostles of Jesus, Father Akuti's order, will be having a Mission Appeal to support both their Formation Program and to provide clean and

safe water for the seminarians and staff. More information to come. Talk to Father if you have any questions. The Appeal will be February 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.

HAPPY NEW YEAR: We hope you all had a Wonderful celebration for the start of 2024. We pray for all of you and look forward to praying, working, celebrating, helping, and enjoying everything with all of you – both our local families and all of our visitors too.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS	
Offertory Collection	\$7,572.50
Needy	\$88.00
Maintenance/Building	\$211.00
Votive	\$6.00
Flowers	\$25.00
Hospitality	\$.00
Winter Survival	

#### REFLECTION FROM FATHER AKUTI

#### "PRESENTS AND PRESENCE"

During Christmas time we give presents to different people and others give presents to us. What's it all about? It all goes back to the story of the wise men going to Bethlehem, falling down on their knees, and offering the best gifts they could afford to the Baby King. Christmas is more about being present, i.e. sharing ourselves with warmth, affection and sincerity. The quality of our personal presence is everything. In practice, gift-giving many times is an expression of unconditional love.

The wise men were completely single-minded and sincere in their gift-giving. Their gifts were expressions of their respect, reverence, gratitude and love for the child. Their gifts were given with no strings attached, no conditions, and no mixed motives.

Unconditional spending and gift-giving to family and friends at Christmas arouses the consciences of People of good will to make donations to the poor and needy at this special time of giving and sharing. (Many charities, and Churches in fact, experience a big boost at Christmas time).

The Magi and Everyone attracted to the Crib have their hearts touched by the plight of this Babe Messiah's parents who are so poor that they can offer him nothing but their protection and affection.

For all of us today who come to gaze at the Baby lying in the Manger, find the message that this is a story of love. And we appreciate the humanity of the Holy Family, their struggles and their sacrifices, to bring to the human race the Light of the Nations. The story of the visit to the Crib by the Wise Men is a story of giving and receiving. It speaks of how gifts express love between persons, and of how gifts given with love bind people together. But it is not simply about the giving of things (in this case gold, frankincense, and myrrh) but the giving of persons, the sharing of selves.

In celebrating Epiphany, we are celebrating the greatest proof of goodness there has ever been, of God's deeply personal love for us. For it was out of love, that the Father gave us the Son, and gave him to be our Light, our Savior, our King and our Joy. His present to us is nothing less than the Divine Presence in Our Lives.

#### **SOME TAKEAWAYS**

- 1) As we contemplate this aspect of the nativity scene, we are called to reflect on the responsibility of every Christian to spread the Gospel. Each of us is called to bear glad tidings to all, testifying by our practical works of mercy to the joy of knowing Jesus and his love.
- 2) The Magi teach us that people can come to Christ by a very long route. Men of wealth, sages from afar, thirsting for the infinite, they set out on the long and perilous journey that would lead them to Bethlehem (cf. Mt 2:1-12). Great joy comes over them in the presence of the Infant King. They are not scandalized by the poor surroundings, but immediately fall to their knees to worship him. Kneeling before him, they understand that the God who with sovereign wisdom guides the course of the stars also guides the course of history, casting down the mighty and raising up the lowly. Upon their return home, they would certainly have told others of this amazing encounter with the Messiah, thus initiating the spread of the Gospel among the nations.