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**WEEKLY OFFERINGS**

Offertory Collection	\$5,479.00
Needy	\$58.00
Maintenance/Building	\$105.00
Votive	\$13.00
Flowers	\$25.00
Hospitality	\$8.00

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Parish websites: stmarybythesea.com  
Facebook.com/stmarybythesea/rockawaybeach  
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, Dia Norris, 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  
**CELEBRATE RECOVERY:** Steve Bloom, Wayne Schultz, Mike Davis.  
**CIRCLE OF CARING:** Ethel Pierczynski, Marie Hennessy, Rhoda Degiovanni, Reta Girdner, and Mary Filker.  
**CHURCH FLOWER DECOR:** Gloria Lyons  
**GARDENING:** Catherine Imbrie & Marie Hennessy  
**MAINTENANCE:** Wayne Schultz & Mike Davis

**St. Mary by the Sea Catholic Church**  
PO Box 390 275 S Pacific Street Rockaway Beach OR 97136  
**February 10-11, 2024**  
**The Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**



**PASTOR:**  
Fr. Macdonald Akuti, AJ  
padreakuti@gmail.com

**OFFICE HOURS**  
Wednesday - Friday  
9:00 am – 3:00 pm

**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

**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.

**THIS WEEKS SCHEDULE**

**MASS TIMES – INTENTIONS - EVENTS**

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>February 10</b>
Mass 5 pm	Ethel Pierczynski
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>February 11</b>
Mass 8:30 am	+ Anne Lee
Mass 10:30 am	People of the Parish
<b>Monday</b>	<b>February 12</b>
Mass 9:30 am	Mary Alger
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>February 13</b>
No Mass and the Office is closed	
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>February 14</b>
Mass 9:30 am	+ Roy and Dorothy Terheggen
Mass 5:30 pm	Beth Vanderstoep and Danny Hemachandra
Celebrate Recovery 5:30 pm	
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>February 15</b>
NO MASS OR ADORATION	
<b>Friday</b>	<b>February 16</b>
Mass 9:30 am	+ Connie McGillivray
First Communion Class	5pm
Stations of Cross	5:15 pm
Soup Supper	5:45 pm

**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**

**A TIME FOR HEALING:** Please pray for John Bender, 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, Jill Mulvey, and all those who are sick or who need healing.

**A TIME FOR SORROW:** Please pray for Marcia Simmons, Nicholas Pronesti, Gwen Medina, Lamar O'leary, John Ritter, Joao Pinto Jr., Nancy McGillis, Brixton, Pope Benedict, Art Pieretti, Marilou Bowman, and all those who have died recently.

**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 Ryan Kinstedt, Willie Helwig, and Richard Steel.

**FIRST RECONCILIATION:** Congratulations to the children who received their First Reconciliation last Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup>. Continue to pray for them as they prepare for their First Communion



## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dear Parishioners and Friends.

We are grateful, and Sincerely are humbled and honored by the outpouring of support and the generous response of the Parishioners and everyone at Mass last Weekend, February 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 2024 at St. Mary's by the Sea Catholic Church OR, to the Apostles Of Jesus Mission Appeal efforts, to raise some funds to make available safe and clean drinking water to our High School Seminarians and Staff in the 3 locations namely; Rejaf Minor Seminary at Juba in South Sudan, Moroto Minor Seminary in Uganda, and Uru Minor Seminary in Tanzania. It was an amazing response, that a total of \$6,843.00 was raised over that weekend, and definitely this will go a long way, thus we cannot thank you enough. Your kind response to our cause is the Divine Providence and gesture of God's comfort to us through you.

For the Apostles of Jesus Order, your generosity is a testament of care and solidarity with our young seminarians who are responding so beautifully to the Church's call to provide faithful Catholic Formation and education.

This joyful witness of your Christian vocation truly sustains Catholic education and formation to future Priests, Brothers and good family members and the Lay faithful our Church seriously needs.

Thank you for your Gospel witness. Be assured of our prayers for you and your role in Catholic Formation and education. May God bless you all abundantly.

In Christ,

Fr. Macdonald Akuti A.J.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS AND SOUP SUPPER - LENT** begins early this year on February 14, Valentine's Day. As Catholics, we honor the seasons of our faith and Lent is a season of reflection, fasting, penance, and almsgiving. What are you and your family planning for Lent this year? As a church family, St. Mary by the Sea parish is planning community prayer each Friday evening beginning February 16 with Stations of the Cross followed by a soup supper in the parish hall. This year, the soup supper will include discussions on the faith entitled "Why do Catholics do that?" and then, "Let's stump the priest!" Stations of the Cross will begin at 5:15 pm and soup will be served beginning about 5:45 pm. Our first topic will be about Lent - how did it start, what does the Catechism say about it, what do the ashes mean, and so on. We encourage all families to attend together so that we all can encourage our children in the practice of the faith. Teenagers, junior high and grade school students - adults, seniors, and super seniors! Everyone is welcome. Let's make this season of Lent the best ever.

**CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS:** At St. Mary by the Sea, we treasure our children. We warmly welcome each and every one of them, and we are so grateful to the adults that brought them here. Please feel at home here, and be assured that we love to hear them rustling about and keeping busy during Mass. We have a Children's Corner in the Parish Hall with lots of toys and books for your children to play with while you enjoy cakes and coffee during the 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month after each of the Masses. Please come over and be a part of our family community. We are also planning on starting a Sunday School during the 10:30 mass using Children's Liturgy of the Word. More details, including start date, to follow soon.

## REFLECTION FROM FATHER AKUTI

The Hebrew name of the Book of Leviticus means that God called Moses and His chosen people to holiness and purity. That is why the first reading teaches the theme of freedom from bodily and ritual impurity as a sign of internal holiness. This freedom is symbolized by the precautions against contracting leprosy given in the first reading and by the healing of the leper described in the Gospel.

The first reading shows the ancient Jewish attitude toward leprosy and gives the rules for the segregation of lepers. This provides a background for Jesus' healing of a leper. In today's Responsorial Psalm (Ps 32), the psalmist says: *"I confessed my faults to the LORD, and You took away my guilt."* He teaches us that we become holy by confessing our sins and being reconciled with God every day.

The psalm serves as a mini-treatise on reconciliation, covering the meaning of the spiritual leprosy of sin and showing how we are forgiven by a Sacramental encounter with God: *"I turn to You, Lord, in times of trouble, and You fill me with the joy of salvation."* In the second reading, St. Paul exhorts us to become holy by doing *"everything for the glory of God"* and by showing sensitivity toward others who are different from us, rather than passing judgment on them.

Today's Gospel describes how Jesus heals a leper, liberating him both from the disease of leprosy and from the unjust, inhuman social, ritual, and religious isolation and exclusion to which lepers were subjected.

### TAKEAWAYS

1) We need to trust in the mercy of a forgiving God who assures us that our sins are forgiven and that we are clean. We are forgiven and made spiritually clean from the spiritual leprosy of sins when we repent of our sins, because God is a God of love Who waits patiently for us. The only condition required of us is that we ask for forgiveness with a repentant heart. We are sure to hear His words of absolution, *"Very well — your sins are forgiven, and you are clean,"* echoed in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

2) We need to tear down the walls that separate us from others and build bridges of loving relationship. Jesus calls every one of us to demolish the walls that separate us from each other and to welcome the outcasts and the untouchables of society. These include; the Children and Youth, the Elderly, the Marginalized groups – the divorced, the unmarried-single mothers, migrant workers, and the Sick. God's loving hand must reach out to them through us. Jesus wants us to touch their lives. Let us re-examine the barriers we have created and approach God with a heart that is ready to welcome the outcasts in our society.

**PARISH RETREAT:** On Saturday morning, March 16, we are planning a parish retreat. Dr. Ryan Mainard will again be joining us to lead a discussion, "God alone suffices." How do we trust in God in such a chaotic world? Where can we find the peace that lasts? Please mark your calendars now for Saturday morning, beginning with Mass at 8:00 followed by the retreat at 8:30 in the parish hall. More information will follow as we approach March 16<sup>th</sup>. Please plan to bring your family to this enriching event for Lent.