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**Transatlantika Brand Design**

→ Julian Croman  
Creative Account Manager  
julian@transatlantika.co  
+1(503) 812-7575

**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 Pierzynski, Marie Hennessy, Rhoda Degiovanni, Reta Girdner, and Mary Filker.  
**CHURCH FLOWER DECOR:** Gloria Lyons  
**GARDENING: WE NEED A VOLUNTEER TO HELP**  
**MAINTENANCE:** Wayne Schultz & Mike Davis

**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

**St. Mary by the Sea Catholic Church**  
PO Box 390 275 S Pacific Street Rockaway Beach OR 97136  
**March 9-10, 2024**  
**The Fourth Sunday of Lent**



**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>March 9</b>
Mass 5 pm	Troops serving in the Middle East
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>March 10</b>
Mass 8:30 am	Manuel and Mariana Cota
Mass 10:30 am	People of the Parish
<b>Monday</b>	<b>March 11</b>
Mass 9:30 am	+ Rozina Agbua
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>March 12</b>
No Mass and the Office is closed	
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>March 13</b>
Mass 9:30 am	Anne Marie Cusimano Johnston
Celebrate Recovery 5:30 pm	
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>March 14</b>
Mass 9:30 am	Emma and Ralph Heathershaw
Adoration – after Mass until Noon	
Circle of Caring 10am	
<b>Friday</b>	<b>March 15</b>
Mass 9:30 am	Troops serving in the Middle East
Grief Share 3pm	
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 Tina Chick, 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 Rozina Agbua, Phyllis Scott, 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 Guadalupe Garcia, Jerome Bader, Fred Wright, and Mariana Cota.

## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PARISH RETREAT:** Next Saturday morning, March 16, we are planning a parish retreat. Dr. Ryan Mainard will 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? We will begin with Mass at 8:00 followed by the retreat at 8:30 in the parish hall. Please plan to bring your family to this enriching event for Lent.

### **ROCKAWAY LIONS ST. PADDYS DAY DINNER:**

Sunday March 17<sup>th</sup> from 1-5pm Corned Beef and Cabbage with carrots, potatoes, soda bread and dessert. You may dine in or take-out – suggested donation is \$15

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS AND SOUP SUPPER –** Join us on Fridays during this Lenten season. The Stations of the Cross begin at 5:15 pm and soup is served beginning about 5:45 pm. As Catholics, we honor the seasons of our faith and Lent is a season of reflection, fasting, penance, and almsgiving. 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.

**RECONCILIATION SERVICE** will be held on Saturday March 23<sup>rd</sup> from 10-Noon. There will be no Confession at 4pm on that day.

**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.

**GRIEF SHARE:** Once again Grief Share support group weekly sessions will begin on Friday March 8, and run through May 31<sup>st</sup> from 3pm until 5pm. They will be held in the Parish Hall while the 1<sup>st</sup> Communion Class is meeting in the office. You may join at any time. Information cards and brochures are located in the Vestibule. Please register online.

**VOLUNTEER NEEDED:** If gardening is one of your pleasures in life, we are looking for someone who is willing to take over the maintenance and care of our church flowers and greenery. Let Doris in the office know if you are interested in helping.

**CAMP HOWARD:** Looking for a summer of great memories and outdoorsy fun? Come enjoy a week at Camp Howard this summer! Open for ages 6-14! Registration is now open. For more information go to [cyocamphoward.org](http://cyocamphoward.org). They are also looking lifeguards, cabin or relief counselors, program staff, and dishwashers and kitchen assistants. If you want to apply - go to [cyocamphoward.org/jobs](http://cyocamphoward.org/jobs)

## REFLECTION FROM FATHER AKUTI

In the first reading, taken from the Second Book of Chronicles, we see the compassion and patience of God. God chose Cyrus the Great, a pagan conqueror, to become the instrument of His mercy to, and salvation of, His chosen people exiled in Babylon.

In today's Responsorial Psalm (Ps 137), the Psalmist voices the pain of exile the captives of Judah suffered. In the second reading, Paul tells us that God is so rich in mercy that He has granted us eternal salvation and eternal life as a free gift through Christ Jesus.

In today's Gospel Jesus, the Son of God, becomes the agent of God's salvation, not just for one sinful nation but for the sinfulness of the whole world. Through John 3:16, the Gospel teaches us that God has expressed His love, mercy, and compassion for us by giving His Only Son for our salvation. Nicodemus, the wealthy Pharisee and member of the Sanhedrin, meets Jesus by night and begins a long religious discussion. Jesus explains to him that he must believe Jesus' words because Jesus is the Son of God. Then, by referring to the story of Moses and the bronze serpent (Nm 21:1-9), Jesus further explains God's plan of salvation. Just as God saved the victims of serpent bite from death through the bronze serpent, He is going to save mankind from its sins by permitting the crucifixion and death of His Son Jesus, because the love of God for mankind is that great.

### **TAKEAWAYS**

**1) We need to love the cross, the symbol of God's forgiving and merciful love:** As a Clear reminder not only of God's love and mercy, but also of the price of our salvation, the crucifix invites us to more than simple generosity and compassion. It inspires us to remove the suffering of other people's misery. It encourages us to feel deep sorrow for another's suffering, and also to try our best to remove that suffering. Hence, let us love the cross, wear its image, and carry our own daily cross with joy, while helping other to carry their heavier crosses.

**2) We need to reciprocate God's love by loving Him in others.** God's love is unconditional, universal, forgiving, and merciful. Let us try to make an earnest attempt to include these qualities in sharing our love with others during Lent.

**3) Our rebirth by water and the Spirit must be an ongoing process.** That is, we must lead a life of repentance and conversion which will bring us, with the help of the Holy Spirit living within us, to an ongoing renewal of life through prayer, adoration, Bible reading, frequenting the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist, and doing corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

### **PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF ROZINA AGBUA,**

In memory of Fr. Akuti's mother, we set up a Fund to support the high school aged students who are attending the Moroto Minor Seminary in Uganda. Your donation will pay all the student fees to take the required national test to continue their education. All donations can be put in the regular collection or sent to the office. We have already raised \$3,986 and our goal each year is to send \$6000 by April 1<sup>st</sup> to pay the testing fees. Thank you for your donation.

### **WEEKLY OFFERINGS**

Offertory Collection	\$4,035.00
Needy	\$53.00
Maintenance/Building	\$600.00
Votive	\$10.00
Flowers	\$25.00
Hospitality	\$7.00
Winter Survival	\$00.00