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St. Mary by the Sea Catholic Church

PO Box 390 275 S Pacific Street Rockaway Beach OR 97136

May 16, 2021



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.

Solemnity of the the Ascension of the Lord

Some takeaway notes from today's readings.

We need to be proclaimers and evangelizers: To be a Christian is to be a witness and an evangelizer. There is a difference between preaching and witnessing. We preach with words, but we witness with our lives. Let us ask the guidance of the Holy Spirit, as we bear witness to Jesus by our transparent Christian lives.

We have a teaching mission: Jesus taught us lessons of Faith, Hope, Love, Forgiveness, Mercy and Salvation by his life and preaching, and gave us the mission to teach these to others. Hence, let us learn about Jesus and his teachings by our daily study of the Bible and the teachings of the Church. Let us experience Jesus in personal prayer, reception of the Sacraments and works of charity. And, let us convey to others Jesus, whom we have experienced with the help of the Holy Spirit.

The ascended Jesus is our source of strength and encouragement: We will be able to overcome doubts about our Faith (as well as baseless fears, anxieties and worries) by meditating on Jesus' Ascension and the lesson it teaches — that we, too, are called to share his glory in Heaven.

Their mission was both easy and hard: easy to understand but hard to carry out. It was to teach others all that he had taught them. Just as he asked them to follow his way, they were to ask that others should follow that way too.

Has a doctor ever put you on a dose of antibiotics? The most basic guidance about antibiotics is to complete the course. Even if the patient starts to feel well after a few days, to discontinue taking the medicine can let their condition grow worse.

Similarly, the message of salvation must continue to be shared until the end of time. With all the changes in the church and in society, neither Jesus nor his message have changed. His Gospel remains a call to live our lives to the full.

You write a new page of the gospel each day, through all that you do and whatever you say. Others read what you write, be it faithful or true. He is with us always. If we are open to His presence in our heart, and treasure it, we can experience fully that "Joy of the Gospel"

Let us in our own ways then, fulfill all that He has entrusted to us - the mission to preach His truth and Good News to all the peoples of all the nations. Let us touch the lives and hearts of more people, so that through us and our genuine faith, we may inspire more people (even in small ways) to walk in the path of Christ. That together we may share in His glory, and receive the true and eternal joy in Him.

May God bless us all in our every good efforts and endeavors. Amen. In Christ, Father Akuti