

St. Mary by the Sea Catholic Church

PO Box 390 275 S Pacific Street Rockaway Beach OR 97136

July 24, 2022

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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 website: 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:

Administrator: Father Macdonald Akuti, AJ
padreakuti@gmail.com 424-410-0097

Parish Secretary: Doris Matthews
stmarys1927doris@gmail.com 503-355-2661

THIS WEEKS SCHEDULE

ACTIVITY	TIME	MASS INTENTIONS
Saturday July 23		
Confession Available at 4:00 pm		
Mass	5:00 pm	Mark Fiebig
Sunday July 24		
Mass	8:30 am	+ Wendy Shultz
Mass	10:30 am	People of the Parish
Monday July 25		
Mass	9:30 am	Harold Stern
Tuesday July 26		
NO MASS and the Office is closed		
Wednesday July 27		
Mass	9:30 am	Barbara Croman
Celebrate Recovery 5:30 pm		
Thursday July 28		
Mass	9:30 am	+ Judy Moar
Circle of Caring 10 am		
Friday July 29		
NO MASS		

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

A TIME FOR HEALING AND SORROW: Please pray for all those who are sick or who need healing. Also pray for Kurt Sours, Dick Scott, Katherine Hunt-Clough, Ed Sherman, Virgie Davis, Diane Chase, Frank Guccione 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 special occasion this week. Happy Birthday to Marilou Bowman, Harold Stern, and Barbara Croman.



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A MESSAGE FROM FATHER AKUTI

“TEACH US TO PRAY”

The main focus of today's Mass readings are the power of intercessory prayer, the *Our Father* as the ideal prayer, and the necessity for perseverance in prayer with trusting faith and boldness.

Sometimes I catch myself thinking that if God isn't answering my question or prayer, then I must be asking the wrong question. Lurking in the background is the idea that I just need to figure out the question God wants to answer! 'God has a map of my life that I'm not allowed to see but I have to solve in order to succeed', while I attempt to seek God into answering my questions, this approach to "figure it out" somehow gets in the way of dialogue in prayer and discernment.

Remembering Jesus' words within the context of teaching us how to pray helps bring our needs into focus. In prayer, we know God speaks to us through our deepest desires. Naming our desires before God is an honest prayer. God wants us to ask, seek, and knock about those desires! Honesty like that is the foundation of good discernment, a collaboration with God, a participation in the abundant life God wants to give us. God draws us close through our desires. I think that's what Jesus is getting at in this Gospel passage. He is teaching us how to pray, which is not really about getting what we want or getting it "right," but about drawing closer in relationship to God who brings us to life.

So, who is this God to whom Jesus teaches us to pray? A loving parent, a generous friend, a just king, and a compassionate teacher who is with us amid our struggles. This God is not a trickster, a miser, or cruel. If we are skeptical that God could be that good to us, Jesus holds up a mirror to help us out. If we know how to be loving parents, generous friends, fair judges, and compassionate, encouraging teachers – and most of us have a pretty good idea of how to do those things, even if we don't always do them perfectly – how much more does God know how to love us? Then Jesus teaches us to ask for what draws us closer to God: for forgiveness, for what we need, for the coming of the Kingdom. If we seek the coming of the Kingdom, we can begin to see it and participate in it. If we knock on the door of abundant life, it opens easily once we let go of the handle to knock.

SOME TAKEAWAYS

1) Prayer is essential for Christian family life. To remain faithful in marriage, the spouses must pray, not only individually, but together. They must thank God and offer intercessory prayers for each other, for their children and for all their dear ones. Daily prayer will help families to celebrate and reverence God's vision of human relationship and honor life from conception to natural death.

2) We need to accept others as children of God and thereby our brothers and sisters: Through the *Our Father*, Jesus is giving us a new vision of human relationships: that we all, irrespective of our color, creed or social background, are the children of God and thereby are brothers and sisters. When we learn this lesson and take God as our Father, love Him accordingly, and treat every other human being as our own dear brothers and sisters — then, we shall experience the Kingdom of God here on earth and enjoy this in the next life. When we love each other and forgive each other's failings God also will love us and forgive us... Amen.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHANGES FOR THIS WEEK: Father Akuti will be gone for part of the week and Father Joseph Barita will be here to offer Mass on Wednesday and Thursday. There will be no Mass on Tuesday or Friday.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR for Sunday August 14th. We will be having a potluck after the 10:30 Mass to celebrate the Feast of the Ascension and Father Akuti's Birthday. If you would like to help, please contact Doris and let her know if you can help with decorating and setting up, providing food, serving, or cleaning up.

ST. ALOYISIUS IN UGANDA: Thank you to everyone for your support of the girls school in Uganda. The quilt in the vestibule is being raffled off next Sunday, July 31st. All the money we raise will go toward scholarships to help the girls and their families. Please get your tickets after any of the Masses. We are so grateful for everyone's generosity and support.

HAITIAN FAIR TRADE ARTISAN SALE: After Mass today we are selling fair trade Rockaway Beach tote bags, handmade by the women of the Ateyle Thevenet Fair Trade Artisan cooperative in Jean Rabel, Haiti. Tony and Michelle Vinciguerra, long-time parishioners at St. Mary's, have worked with the artisans of Atelye Thevenet for over 15 years as part of their medical mission work in Haiti. The women of Atelye Thevenet produce beautiful, hand-made artisan products in a fair/direct trade relationship. Purchasing from the Atelye brings our faith to life by empowering women, giving them dignified work, and helping them feed their families and send their children to school in Haiti's poorest region. We will accept cash, credit cards and checks. For more information, visit: www.atelyethevenet.com.

QUO VADIS DAYS is a 4-day retreat for young Catholic men ages 15-18 to learn more about the priesthood, to deepen their faith, and to better discern God's call in their lives. This year Quo Vadis Days will be held at the Father Bernard Youth Center in Mount Angel, Oregon August 1-4, 2022. Contact the Office of Vocations for more information at vocations@archdpx.org or call the office at 503-233-8368.

WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND ELDERLY. The theme for this year's celebration is "In Old Age They Will Still Bear Fruit" (Ps. 92:15). The theme is meant to emphasize how grandparents are a gift both to society and the Church. This year, Pope Francis is also extending the opportunity for a plenary indulgence "to the faithful who devote adequate time to visit, in presence or virtually, through the media, their elderly brothers and sisters in need or in difficulty" on July 24.