

St. Mary by the Sea Catholic Church

PO Box 390 275 S Pacific Street Rockaway Beach OR 97136

August 21, 2022

21st 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 August 20		
Confession Available at 4:00 pm		
Mass	5:00 pm	Doris Matthews
Sunday August 21		
Mass	8:30 am	Mary & Scott Johnson
Mass	10:30 am	People of the Parish
Monday August 22		
Mass	9:30 am	Rudy & Carrie Munzel
Tuesday August 23		
NO MASS and the Office is closed		
Wednesday August 24		
Mass	9:30 am	Bruce Ernst
Celebrate Recovery 5:30 pm		
Thursday August 25		
Mass	9:30 am	Ann & Jay Vanderstoep
Circle of Caring 10 am		
Friday August 26		
Mass	9:30 am	+ Martin Cruz

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, Martin Cruz 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.



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A MESSAGE FROM FATHER AKUTI

“NOT EVERYTHING COUNTS “

As Jesus continues his final journey to Jerusalem prepared for his suffering, and death, he responds to the question asking how many will be saved, by answering how one is to enter into salvation and how urgent it's that one strives now, before the Master closes the door. Instead of asking how many will be saved, Jesus wants us to ask ourselves, “Am I prepared to be saved, choosing the narrow gate of sacrificial agape love and so loving others as Jesus loves them”?

In the first reading, Isaiah's prophecy speaks to the Babylonian exiles returning to Jerusalem after 47 years in captivity, the younger members with their pagan wives; the Prophet Isaiah tells them that salvation is not a Jewish monopoly and that is why Yahweh (God) welcomes the pagans also into Judaism. The prophet's great book ends as it began, with a vision of all the peoples of the world streaming toward Jerusalem, acknowledging and praising the God of Israel.

The Responsorial Psalm (Ps 117) refrain, “*Go out to all the world and tell the Good News,*” Reflects the mission of God's chosen people to be instruments of salvation to the whole world.

In the Gospel, Jesus clearly explains that anyone who follows him through the narrow gate of sacrificial service and sharing love will be saved. ‘*Try your hardest to enter by the narrow door*’. In this way Jesus undercuts the reaction of those who understand his message as an invitation to laxity. Salvation is not something one receives irresponsibly from a permissive God. It also isn't the privilege of an elect few. It's not enough to be children of Abraham. It isn't sufficient to have known the Messiah, to have heard and seen him. One needs also to follow him.

Entering by the narrow door is ‘following Jesus’; learning to live as he did; taking up his cross and trusting the Father who has raised him from the dead. In following him, “not everything counts”, not everything is equal; we need to respond to the Father's love faithfully. What Jesus asks isn't legalistic rigorism, but a radical love for God and neighbor. That's why his call is a source of demand, but not of anxiety. Jesus Christ is a door that is always open. No one can close it, only ourselves if we close ourselves to his forgiveness.

SOME TAKE AWAYS:

We need to cooperate with God's grace daily:

- 1) - By choosing the narrow way and the narrow gate of self-control and self-disciplining of our evil tendencies, evil habits, and addictions;
- 2) - By loving others, seeing the face of Jesus in them, and sharing our blessings with them sacrificially;
- 3) - By obtaining Divine strength in daily prayer, in Bible reading, and in reception of the Sacraments..... Amen.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANK YOU: Father Akuti would like to thank you all for your prayers and encouragement as we organize and get our Parish Councils formed and ready to start meeting. We also want to thank Deacon Kevin Welch for his continuing help and support. The members of our councils are: **Finance:** Phillip Curtis, Alicia Ritter, Theresa Southwick, David Conway, and Tony Vinciguerra.

Parish Council: Steve Bloom, Chris Bloom, Gloria Lyons, Alicia Voss, Michelle Vinciguerra, Gladys Jacobsen, Loretta Schutten, and Paul Erlebach.

THANK YOU: Father Akuti would also like to thank everyone who helped him celebrate his birthday last weekend. It was a wonderful celebration and if you were not able to attend, check out the pictures and video on our Facebook page.

FAITH FORMATION CLASSES: All classes for RCIA, First Communion and Confirmation, will begin in September. The Registration Forms are available in the back of the church or in the office. Please pick one up and fill it out if you are interested in one of these classes. Once you have filled it out, you may turn it in at the office or put it in the collection basket.

HAITIAN FAIR TRADE ARTISAN SALE: This Saturday and Sunday after each Mass, Tony and Michelle Vinciguerra again will be selling fair trade Rockaway Beach tote bags, handmade by the women of the Ateyle Thevenet Fair Trade Artisan cooperative in Jean Rabel, Haiti. After our sale in July, a number of people requested the opportunity to purchase more bags. As you know 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 one of the Western Hemisphere's most isolated, impoverished regions. We will accept cash, credit cards and checks. For more information, visit: www.atelyethevenet.com