

St. Mary by the Sea Catholic Church

PO Box 390 275 S Pacific Street Rockaway Beach OR 97136

September 25, 2022

26th 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	MASS INTENTIONS
Saturday September 24	
Confession Available at 4:00 pm	
Mass 5:00 pm	People of the Parish
Sunday September 25	
Mass 8:30 am	Rob and Laura Bender
Mass 10:30 am	Donna Molendyke
Monday September 26	
Mass 9:30 am	Mary Alger
Tuesday September 27	
NO MASS and the Office is closed	
Wednesday September 28	
Mass 9:30 am	+ Kurt Sours
Celebrate Recovery 5:30 pm	
Thursday September 29	
Mass 9:30 am	Jamie Simpson and + Kurt Sours
Friday September 30	
Mass 9:30 am	Karen Souza and Demi Dignan

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

A TIME FOR HEALING AND SORROW: Please pray for Mary Alger, Ethel Pierzynski, and all those who are sick or who need healing. Also pray for Beatriz Leon, Patricia (Tutu) Croman Scott, Kurt Sours, Dick Scott, 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. Happy Birthday to Lamar O'Leary, Art Pieretti, Ed Schultz, and Nancy McGillis.



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THE LAZARUS PARADOX

Jesus uses a contrast to drive home his message. The parable could be unpacked, explaining some of its details. The poor man's name gives a hint of his inner attitude. He is called Lazarus, or in Hebrew Eliezer, which means God will help. He is a beggarman who trusts in the Lord. The nameless rich man is anyone who stonily ignores all the human misery that goes unaided. The rich man has lavish food and a luxurious wardrobe. There is no mention of guilt, for he had done wrong to the other. He simply ignores the fact that just outside his gate lies a poor man in rags and starving. Even the scraps of food that fell from the rich man's table were not offered to him. The rich man clearly sinned by omission.

Lazarus goes to heaven and basks in the company of Abraham, the friend of God. The rich man goes down to the dark emptiness of the grave. This could focus on the ultimate settling of accounts, the final judgment that will level off all injustices. It urges the need to care for the poor on our own doorsteps, who call out to for dignity of life, the weak, the unborn babies and the disable whose lives all matter to God. The rich man did not deny the existence of Lazarus, he just ignored it, or accepted drastic inequality as normality. In the richer countries, urged by the media to balance their domestic budgets, there can be an ostrich mentality that ignores the needs of the Poor Countries.

Another option is to start with the state of the rich man in Hades. He has fallen from his real privileged position as a son of Abraham. The rich man did not really listen to the message of the prophets. Abraham says that the five brothers will not be able to change their way of life if they do not do so through listening to God's word. This tackles the falseness of ethereal devotions that stress the extraordinary but ignore the social implications of the real gospel.

TAKEAWAY MESSAGES

1) We are all rich enough to share our blessings with others. God has blessed each one of us with wealth or health or special talents or social power or political influence or a combination of many blessings. The parable invites us to share what we have been given with others in various ways instead of using everything exclusively for selfish gains.

2) We need to remember that sharing is the criterion of Last Judgment: Matthew (25:31ff) tells us that all six questions to be asked of each one of us by Jesus when He comes in glory as our judge are based on how we have shared our blessings from him (food, drink, home, mercy and compassion), with our brothers and sisters, anyone in need, for Jesus identifies himself with each of them.

3) We need to treat the unborn, the disable, the orphans, the homeless and aliens as our brother/sister Lazarus. Lazarus in the 21st century include all those unable to make independent decisions or defend themselves, all our pre-born brothers and sisters; these babies whose lives are terminated in their mother's wombs cry for a chance to live, and are rejected over 4000 times a day in our country. The rich man was condemned for not treating Lazarus as his brother. We also may be condemned for our selfishness if we do not treat the unborn, the homeless, the disable, the poor/needy and the stranger as our brothers and sisters.

4) Our choices here determine the kind of eternity we will have. It has been put this way: "Where we go hereafter depends on what we 'go after,' here!" Where we will arrive depends on what road we travel. We will get what we choose, what we live for. We are shaping our moral character to fit forever in one of two places.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP? There are lots of ways to get involved in our Parish community. If you would like to get involved, please contact Father Akutti by calling his cell phone 424-0410-0097. We all have skills and talents, so think about how you might help. For instance, would you like to help out with the music ministry by working with the choir and playing the keyboard at Mass or leading the rosary before Mass?

SEMINARIAN APPEAL: Please pray for our Seminarians and for the success of our Seminarian Appeal next Sunday, October 2nd. It directly supports future priests here in western Oregon.

RESPECT LIFE MONTH: Every human person is created as the "Imago Dei," the Image of God, with a sanctity and dignity that can never be denied. Out of the profound reverence due to every human person, the Church provides support to build a culture of life and advocate for the most vulnerable. Practices that undermine the value of ALL human life - such as abortion, assisted-suicide, the death penalty, racism - have no place in a just society. We are pro-life for the whole life - womb to tomb - from conception to natural death.

WINTER SURVIVAL FUND: As a parish all of us are working on our goal to raise \$32,000 for our winter survival fund. So far, we have raised, \$2421 of our goal of \$32,000. We will be having a parish Fund Raiser in November.

ROSARY RALLY: Please Join us in praying for our nation on October 15, 2022 at 12:00 noon. The local Public Square Rosary Rally will take place at Rockaway Wayside. Contact Wayne Schultz at 503-322-4325. Pray for good weather and God Bless!

ROSARY BEFORE MASS: Please come 20 minutes early prior to mass and join fellow parishioners in reciting the rosary. If you would like to lead the rosary, please contact Gladys Jacobsen @ 503-347-6149

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE: We are sponsoring a blood drive on October 11th from Noon to 5pm. Please consider signing up to donate blood. There is a critical shortage at this time and by donating you can help save lives. Go to the Red Cross website at redcross.org to sign up or call Doris in the office.

FALL FESTIVAL: On October 29th from Noon until 3pm, we are having a Fall Festival Costume Party. This is an activity for all families of St. Mary by the Sea to have fun together. It is not a fundraiser. There will be food, games, and lots of fun.

CIRCLE OF CARING: The Circle of Caring ladies will not be meeting this week, September 29th