



Saint Benedict the Moor Parish

Personal Parish for Black Catholics in Pittsburgh

"With God All Things Are Possible!"

JUNE 13, 2021

Mass Schedule

Sunday 10:30 am

Livestream:

facebook.com/SBTMPGH/live

**Sacrament
of Reconciliation,
Baptisms, Weddings,
and Funerals**

by appointment.

Adoration

Thursday 10:00 am



Our church is accessible.

Staff

Rev. Thomas J. Burke, Pastor:

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Senior Parochial Vicar:

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Parochial Vicar:

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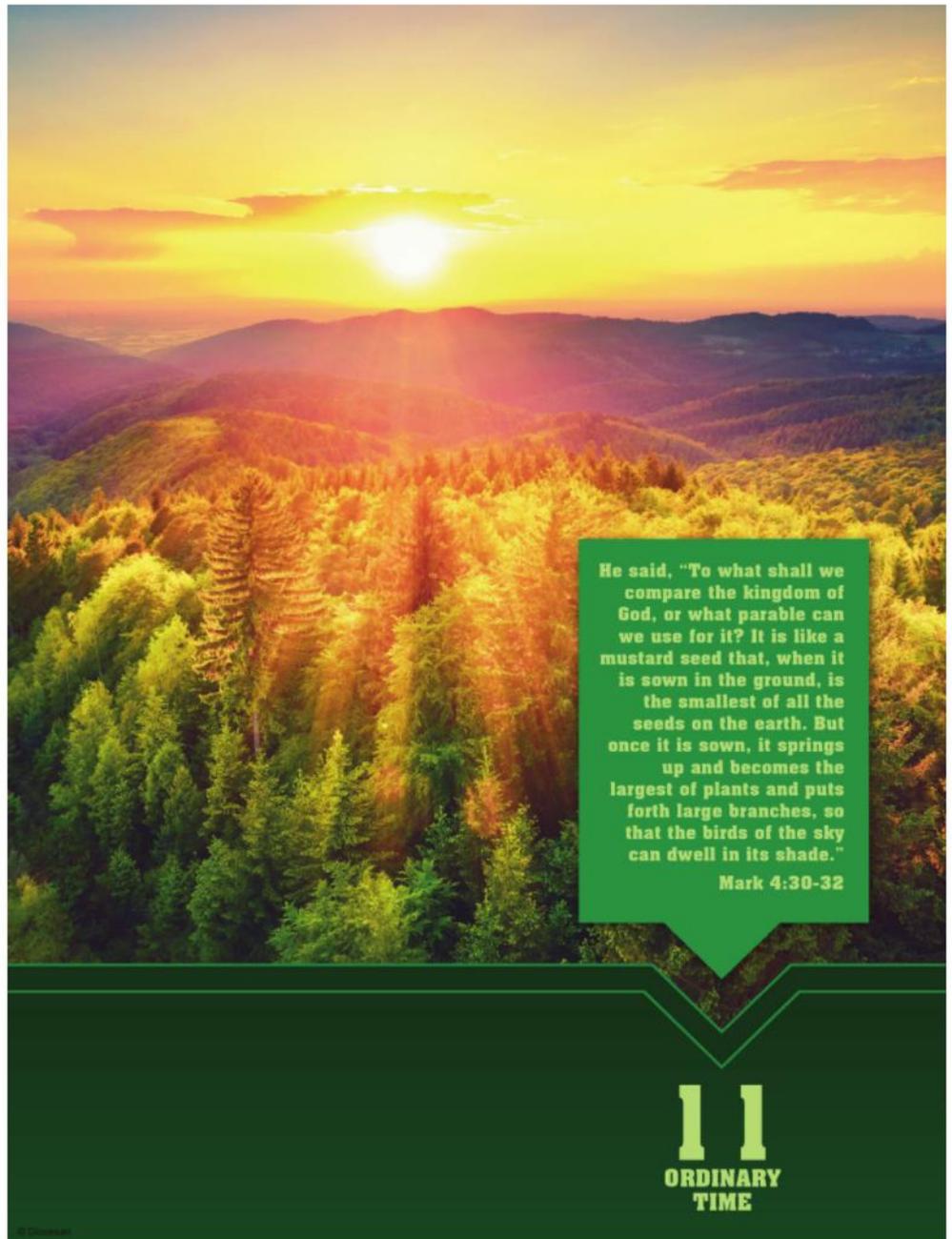
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He said, "To what shall we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable can we use for it? It is like a mustard seed that, when it is sown in the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on the earth. But once it is sown, it springs up and becomes the largest of plants and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the sky can dwell in its shade."

Mark 4:30-32

11
ORDINARY
TIME

Saint Benedict the Moor Church • 91 Crawford Street • Pittsburgh PA 15219

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Website:
sbtmparishpgh.com



[St. Benedict the Moor Parish-PGH](https://www.facebook.com/St.BenedicttheMoorParish-PGH)



[SBTMPARISHPGH](https://www.instagram.com/SBTMPARISHPGH)



[SBTMParishPGH](https://www.youtube.com/SBTMParishPGH)

Pray For All Who Request Prayers

Our parish community prays for those who request prayers for any reason. If you, a family member, or friend would like to be on our prayer list, please contact the Parish Office at 412.281.3141 or office@sbtmparishpgh.org.

Duane Ashley
Dorothy Brisbane
Rita Costa
Edward Davis
Rita Davis
Robert Davis
Dolores Denton
Frederick Elliott

Lydia Francis
Marie Francis
Woody Frazier
James Fuller
Ann Fultz
Janet Glass
Brenda Glenn
Mary Graham

Alda White Johnson
The Jackson Family
Sandra Johnson
Salima Kamadoli
Aisha Lado
Lynda Ravnell Lewis
Josephine O'Connor
Nicole Orlando

Mary Samuels
Genevieve Sanford
Janice Simmons
Rudolph Williams
Jenell Younger

Mass Intentions

June 13 10:30 am
Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Fr. Thomas Burke

St. Benedict the Moor
(Mother Teresa Conference, St. Vincent DePaul)

June 20 10:30 am
Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Fr. Matthew Hawkins

All of the Deceased and Living Fathers,
Uncles, and Brothers of Saint Benedict the
Moor Parish

**Congratulations to
St. Benedict the Moor School's
8th Grade Class Who Graduated on
Thursday, June 10!**

**May God Bless You and May You Have
Much Success in High School!**



Stewardship June 6

Offertory	PSP	Special Collections
\$2,888.00	\$605.00	\$2,034.00

Farewell Celebration for Fr. Augustine Wayii

Join us for a farewell celebration for
Fr. Augustine Wayii, at Brother
Andre's Café, 164 Washington Place,
15219, Sunday, June 20, after the
10am Mass at Epiphany Church.

Fr. Augustine always went the extra
mile, he took the extra time, gave the
extra thought, and really made a
difference.

If you are a 2020 or 2021 Graduate
Please send your name and school info to
office@sbtmparishpgh.com
so that you can be recognized in the next
bulletin!

Juneteenth in Pittsburgh 2021

This is the first year that Pittsburgh and all of Allegheny County is officially honoring Juneteenth (June 19) as a county holiday (it had been designated a state holiday earlier in PA). It marks a holiday first celebrated in Texas, where on that date in 1865, in the aftermath of the Civil War, slaves were declared free under the terms of the 1862 Emancipation Proclamation. It is also known as Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, Liberation Day, and Emancipation Day.

Pittsburgh will hold its Juneteenth & Black Music festival at Point State Park from June 18-27. It is an opportunity to come together and enjoy a host of events that include live music, festivals, and a parade. More than 100,000 people are expected to attend. For details on the events, see Visit Pittsburgh's website: visitpittsburgh.com/juneteenth-freedom-day



Radio Program,

with Fr. Tom Burke as host, highlights elementary and secondary schools; colleges; youth ministry programs; and more, and is broadcast every other Sunday morning on KDKA-AM. Fr. Tom's guest on June 20th will be Erin Stuvek from Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish in the North Hills.

A link to the podcasts of the program is on KDKA:
kdkaradio.radio.com/media/podcast/catholic-education-plus



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Toward a Catholic Understanding of the Phrase “Black Lives Matter”

By Fr. Matthew Hawkins

It is a curious thing that the cry “Black Lives Matter” is met with so much opposition and misunderstanding outside of African American communities. This cry means many different things to different people, but it is grounded in reality and in a specific and concrete history and in contemporary social experiences. These should not be misinterpreted or misunderstood.

The cry, “Black Lives Matter” is not a new cry that suddenly emerged in the past 10 years. It is a cry that is at least 400 years old, and has spanned many different stages of American history.

If a person understands the history and circumstances that have given rise to this cry, then they will not misinterpret it, they will not feel threatened by it, and they will not feel excluded from it. Properly understood, “Black Lives Matter” is an expression of fundamental Catholic values of family, community, universality, life, and faith.

Some may ask, “Why talk about black lives? Why not talk about all lives?” But to say “Black Lives Matter” is to say that “All Lives Matter,” including the lives of Black Americans that have been treated historically, and even today, as being expendable, disposable, and of little value.

It is the tradition of the Catholic faith that we experience the universal within the particular, and we participate in the global through the local. What does this mean?

It means that human beings who are part of a universal body, live within a particular society, culture, and period of history. This is as true for African Americans as it is for any other social and ethnic group. As Americans, we have no problem recognizing the importance of passing on Irish-American culture in raising children and strengthening communities; nor do we find it difficult to value and pass on Italian-American culture and heritage, or German-American culture and heritage, or Polish-American culture and heritage. Why should it be any different when it comes to the life-sustaining role of the preservation and transmission of African American culture and heritage to future generations in order to have strong and healthy families and communities?

One example of this is the traditional role that African American spirituals have played in strengthening and nurturing us through times of adversity, including the brutality of slavery, the oppression of forced racial segregation, two great migrations that have torn African American families asunder, and the confinement of blacks to Northern urban ghettos.

The Spirituals, much like the blues, as musical art forms have enabled generations of African Americans to enter into the suffering of the human condition and therein, find solidarity with all of humanity. They have kept us sane in the midst of adversity. They have kept us whole. They have given us wisdom. And they have introduced us to the Gospel.

Moreover, the Spirituals have brought sacred scripture to life within the peculiarity of the African American experience. To turn our backs on our culture and our heritage would be to turn our backs on life itself. This is as true for us as it is for any other culture or ethnicity.

For Black American Catholics, it is through the particularity of our cultural heritage that we enter into the universality of the traditions of the Catholic Church and the universality of all of humanity. No one has any reason to feel threatened by this. No one has any reason to feel excluded.

“But why,” some might ask, “do you say that your lives matter? What do you mean by this?”

When we say that our lives matter we are expressing the quintessential message of the Gospel of Life. For centuries, African American lives have been treated as though they did not matter. They were treated as though they were cheap and expendable. This was true under the regime of chattel slavery; it was true during the mass lynching of blacks in the post-civil war south, and in riots in the north to prevent racial integration. It was true for 100 years after emancipation and it was true when black soldiers were sent to the front lines of the battlefields to absorb the brunt of the casualties in times of war.

It has also been true under more recent policies of mass incarceration and disproportionate sentencing to capital punishment.

The cry that “Black Lives Matter” is a cry that comes from the Gospel of life and from a rejection of the notion that human beings should be treated as though they are mere objects that should be thrown away when their lives are no longer deemed to be “useful.”

It is a rejection of the idea that human life is something that should be disposable for social convenience.

We reject the notion that depopulation and termination of pregnancies are acceptable means for combating poverty.

We reject the notion that the use of violence and military action without exhausting efforts for peaceful resolution of conflicts should be the basis of foreign policy.

We reject the notion that the state execution of prisoners is an acceptable and effective way to deter crime and to protect human life.

We reject the notion that withdrawing ordinary means of life-sustaining care is an acceptable way to reduce the cost of health care.

Again and again, we respond to the culture of death by reasserting a culture of life.

We reject anything in our culture that cheapens human life and that desensitizes us to human suffering. This includes gratuitous violence in entertainment, misogynist treatment of women, and the plague of gunfire in our streets.

A Catholic understanding of the cry that “Black Lives Matter,” is a celebration of the value and dignity of human life from the point of conception until natural death.

Therefore, let no one misunderstand and misinterpret what we mean when we say “Black Lives Matter.” Let no one convince themselves that they should feel offended or excluded by a Catholic understanding of the term. This is a phrase that embraces and acknowledges the tradition and culture of African American communities for 400 years and that applies the timeless value of human life to the particularity of the African American experience today. It is a phrase that asserts the value of life that is too often missing in American popular culture.

Let this be a blessing to us, to our children, and to all of humanity. Black Lives Matter. Black Catholics Matter. All Human Life Matters. May God Bless You. *(June 30, 2020)*



Pastor's Note

Patience!

In the first reading from Ezekiel, we read how a prophet compares God's work in the world to the growth of plants and trees. This passage gives a message of hope for a broken and disheartened world. In the Second Reading to the Corinthians, we are reminded to walk by faith, not by sight. Discipleship brings with it many trials. In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus teaches us the Parable of the wheat and the mustard seed which focuses on patience. Jesus taught in Parables so that they could understand complex topics in common terminology.

God is working great things in us. May we open our hearts and let grace flow through us and bring the Kingdom of God to fruition. We need to be patient and let God help us grow in our own spiritual growth. If there is something which we want to do, or goals we would like to achieve, let us not sit around dreaming about them and hesitate, should of, could of, but let us do something about them, even if it is something very small, take a step and plant one seed. We are the work of God's hands, but we are also God's hands at work. We are partners with God in the growth of the kingdom. May we learn to be patient with ourselves and with others.

Next Saturday, June 19, is "Juneteenth" Freedom Day or Black Independence Day. It commemorates the end of slavery in the United States. This is the first year that the City of Pittsburgh and

Allegheny County is officially honoring Juneteenth as a county holiday.

We Are Open

This past week we mailed every registered parishioner a Welcome Back Letter! In following the Guidelines from the CDC, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and Diocese of Pittsburgh, we are now open to full capacity for Mass. New signs have been put up indicating that those who are fully vaccinated may attend Mass without wearing a mask. Those not fully vaccinated or those fully vaccinated who feel more comfortable seated around others who are wearing masks, reserved sections are available while attending Mass. Those who are not comfortable yet to return to Mass can continue to mail in their weekly envelope or participate in our online giving program.

Bishop Zubik has dispensed every one of the Sunday obligation until further notice so those who are at risk or with health issues still can refrain from coming to Mass. Those who are unable to attend Mass physically are welcome to view the Mass Livestream.

Mission Appeal

Thank you to all who participated in last weekend's Annual Mission Co-op Appeal for the **Diocese of Muranga in Kenya (East Africa)**. Please disregard the offertory envelope in the July packet. The Diocese moved up the date of the appeal to be held in June instead of July.

Parish Share 2021

The Annual Parish Share 2021 Campaign has begun, and our goal is **\$30,000**. No funds collected via the program go towards lawsuits or legal affairs, rather they support the day-to-day operations at the Pastoral Center and Seminary in Green Tree, the Hospital Chaplaincy programs in our area hospitals and nursing homes, training our religious educators and evangelization, and the Campus Ministry programs at our local colleges and universities. Parish Share

also helps the individual parishes with assistance from the Diocesan Insurance and Benefits Office for our parish and school employees, Property and Planning Office to assist with buildings and grounds issues and the Parish Services Office assists Pastors and Business Managers with the day-to-day operations of the parish. We are suggesting each family contribute \$35.00 a month or more if they can, to help us reach our goal.

Parish Improvements

In preparing to expand our choir, we recently added to our sound equipment with additional microphone stands and microphones. Special thanks to **Ryan Long** and **Darrell Rubin** for helping with this project.

A new church bell, which we ring at the beginning of each mass in the back of the church has been installed. An anonymous donor purchased this bell for our parish.

Looking Ahead

A joint Pastoral and Finance Council will meet today, Sunday, June 13 after Mass.

Welcome

A special welcome to **Mpanda Mwape** who recently registered at St. Benedict the Moor Parish.

Something to Think About...

A good place to find a helping hand is at the end of your arm.

With God, All Things Are Possible!

Fr. Tom Burke
Pastor

E-Mail: tburke@diopitt.org

Fr. David Taylor

Many large families learn very early the significance of sharing with one another. This is especially true with economically challenged families. I come from a family where sharing and caring was a way of life. My parents learned very early that a little can go a long way. And we were always able to share with others far less fortunate than ourselves.

Jesus often used parables as a way of teaching us how to live. Many who have little in material resources have an abundance of faith. The mustard tree, often seen as of no account, offers a wealth of endurance. Jesus knew this and offered it as a parable of how a little can go a long way. Whether we have a little or an abundance of earthly goods, we must share with others. Paul is clear about the fact that we must all someday appear before Christ to give an account of how we used the gifts he has given us. Some of the greatest examples of discipleship show how much generosity can spread. Our faith in God can sprout from the smallest seeds of faith sown within our heart.

In this world we have many choices to make. The bottom line is not what we have but rather what we have done with what we have. This is proven time and again with the generous care we try to provide even with limited resources. Many things that we take for granted can be life changing for others.

St. Oscar Romero knew how to make the most in spreading the faith with very few resources. He knew that God's care for the poor could never be underestimated. The witness of his life led to his martyrdom but the seeds of generosity and justice of his ministry will never go unnoticed.

Fr. Matthew Hawkins

When you think about the moments when you felt most fully alive, either because you were in love, or you were filled with a burst of joy, or you were moved by words, images, or music of profound beauty, or you were filled with sadness after a deep and profound loss, you felt those moments in your heart. Our hearts beat faster in happiness and in sorrow. Our hearts feel heavy when we are weighed down with burdens and become weightless when we are filled with hope and anticipation. It is no accident that we think of the heart as being the seat of passion and emotion. It is also not an accident that the ancients identified the heart as being the seat of wisdom. This past Friday and Saturday, the readings for daily Mass reflected upon two aspects of our spirituality that are embedded in the movements of the heart: the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. These two dimensions of the heart invite us to practice contemplation and to embody the living presence of Christ in the world.

When Joseph and Mary found Jesus in the temple and they questioned him about why he stayed behind, causing them much agony and worry, Jesus answered them by saying, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But scripture tells us that Joseph and Mary did not understand what Jesus was saying to them. But just as she did after the shepherds visited her during the nativity (Lk 2:19) and after she and Joseph heard the prophetic utterances of Simeon and Anna in the temple (Lk 2: 22-38), Mary reflected on all that she heard and experienced in the presence of Jesus, and she "kept all these things in her heart (Lk 2:51)."

When we pray the Holy Rosary and we reflect upon passages of sacred scripture, we feel close to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. We "ponder in our hearts" the events in the life of Jesus, and in our own lives. The heart

of Mary is a heart of prayerful reflection. It is a heart that does not allow the events of our days to rush by us without thoughtful reflection. It is a heart that we allow to be formed, after the pattern of Mary's heart, so that we are attentive and present to the moment. As busy as we might be with our daily affairs, we do not allow our haste, and the many activities that consume us, to leave us without time for stillness, silence, and thoughtful reflection. This is the nature of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

The Sacred Heart of Jesus gives us the other side of the story. In John 19:34 we read: "One soldier thrust his lance into [Jesus'] side, and immediately blood and water flowed out." It is highly significant that the author of this Gospel calls our attention to "the blood and water" that flows from Jesus' side. The heart of Jesus beats passionately with the desire to restore us from death to life. In the flowing waters of baptism, we are cleansed of our sins and our old nature is put to death. In the Eucharistic meal of the body and blood of Christ, we consume nourishment for our souls, to strengthen us on our journey toward the New Creation. The Sacred Heart of Jesus is an invitation for us to participate in the divinity of Christ, but first we must allow the impulses that separate us from people and the splendor of creation all around us to be put to death, and we must enter into communion with Christ who, in the spirit of divine love, draws us out of ourselves so that we can love each other and the gift of creation properly.

Within the mystery of these two hearts, the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the Sacred Heart of Jesus, we find refreshment for the soul. The heart of Mary and the heart of Jesus beat as one. In the unity of these two hearts, we discover transcendence from our anxieties, and we find the strength, courage, fortitude, and love to prepare the way for the Lord.

ST. BENEDICT THE MOOR PARISH WANTS YOUR HELP!

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Help us reach and inform our parishioners with weekly communication efforts

