



# Saint Benedict the Moor Parish

*Personal Parish for Black Catholics in Pittsburgh*

**JULY 25, 2021**

## Mass Schedule

Sunday 10:30 am

Livestream:

[facebook.com/SBTMPGH/live](https://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:

[tburke@diopitt.org](mailto:tburke@diopitt.org)

Rev. David H. Taylor,

Senior Parochial Vicar:

[dtaylor@diopitt.org](mailto:dtaylor@diopitt.org)

Rev. C. Matthew Hawkins,

Parochial Vicar:

[mhawkins@diopitt.org](mailto:mhawkins@diopitt.org)

Christopher Catone, Music Director

Priscilla Davis, Office Manager

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Ray Krivanek, Maintenance

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Religious Education

[religiouseducation@sbtmparishpgh.com](mailto:religiouseducation@sbtmparishpgh.com)

## Grandparents DAY

Grandparents bestow upon  
their grandchildren the  
strength and wisdom that time  
and experience have given them.

Grandchildren bless their  
grandparents with a youthful  
vitality and innocence  
that help them stay  
young at heart forever.



© Diocesan Quote by Unknown Author

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

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Website:  
[sbtmparishpgh.com](http://sbtmparishpgh.com)



St. Benedict the Moor Parish-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](mailto:office@sbtmparishpgh.org).

Duane Ashley  
Dorothy Brisbane  
Marti Cillo  
Marquis Clancy  
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  
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

July 25 10:30 am  
Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Fr. Thomas Burke

Anthony Akins  
(Mrs. Cecily Akins)

August 1 10:30 am  
Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Fr. David Taylor

Dame Mary Walker and Mrs. Alberta Gant  
(Dr. Yinka Aganda-Williams)

### St. Benedict the Moor Parish Celebrates 132 Years!

Inspired by the first National Congress of Black Catholics' urge for greater recognition in the church and an end to racism, Holy Ghost College, presently known as Duquesne University, established Saint Benedict the Moor Parish on July 28, 1889. The Parish's vision has continuously focused on serving Black Catholics, encompassing a full range of struggles and triumphs.

### Stewardship JULY 18

| Offertory  | PSP      | Special Collections |
|------------|----------|---------------------|
| \$4,258.00 | \$390.00 | \$445.00            |

### SBTM Sunday School is In Need of Your Help

Restarting our program from scratch takes time, talent, and treasure. Right now we need YOUR TREASURE to assist with the cost of program materials including books, craft supplies, music, and retreats.

We are asking YOU to sponsor a SBTM child.

\$50 for one child  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ whatever you can afford.

For More Information Please See LisaJoy Finch, Joelynn Parham, or Julie Mondello. You Can Also Email [religiouseducation@sbtmparishpgh.com](mailto:religiouseducation@sbtmparishpgh.com)

[blackfacts.com](http://blackfacts.com)

**July 25** "The Algiers Motel incident occurred in Detroit, Michigan, throughout the night of July 25, 1967 during the Detroit Race Riots. At the Algiers Motel, three civilians were killed and nine others were abused by a riot task force composed of the Detroit Police Department, the Michigan State Police, and the Michigan Army National Guard. Among the casualties were three Black teenage boys killed, and two white women and seven black men wounded as a result. The task force was searching the area after reports were received that a gunman or group of gunmen, possibly snipers, had been seen at or near the motel. One death has never been explained as the body was allegedly found by responding officers. Two deaths have been attributed to "justifiable homicide" or "self-defense". Charges of felonious assault, conspiracy, murder, and conspiracy to commit civil rights abuse were filed against three officers. Charges of assault and conspiracy were also filed on a private security guard. All were found not guilty."



**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 August 1 will be Esther Stief, Executive Director of the Crossroads Foundation.

A link to the podcasts of the program is on KDKA:

[kdkaradio.radio.com/media/podcast/catholic-education-plus](http://kdkaradio.radio.com/media/podcast/catholic-education-plus)



## Pastor's Note

### *The Bread of Life!*

This weekend we celebrate the Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time. The readings this weekend focus on God's generosity. In the first reading from the Book of Kings, we read how the prophet Elisha feeds a large crowd with only a few loaves of bread. The land of Israel is suffering from famine and through the word of the Lord, Elisha became an agent of life. In the Second Reading to the Ephesians, Paul challenges the community of believers to reflect on the love of God in their lives. They have every reason to be bonded in peace because they are baptized in the one Lord and believe in the one God and Father. In the Gospel of John, we read part of the famous "Bread of Life Discourse" and the miracle (or in John's gospel they are signs) of the multiplication of loaves and fishes. This miracle is the only miracle found in all four gospels. It appears twice in Matthew, twice in Mark, and once in Luke and John.

John's version differs slightly from the others as Jesus takes the initiative to test Philip. John's version is the fourth of seven signs. A sign is a miraculous action where in something about God is revealed in and through Jesus.

Jesus wanted to feed both body and soul. This is central to our Christian experience. We need to see the faces of the hungry, the poor, and the suffering.

At every Eucharist, like the thousands on the mountain top in Galilee, we receive and share the wondrous Bread of Life.

Let us be fed and nourished with the word of God and the Eucharist. Let us continue to feed the poor, help the less fortunate and visit the sick and elderly.

Tuesday, July 13 marked the First Anniversary of the reopening of St. Benedict the Moor as a personal parish for Black Catholics. It is a true honor to serve as Pastor of both St. Mary Magdalene and St. Benedict the Moor. Fr. Matthew, Fr. Taylor and I continue to work together to serve both parishes. This weekend at the 10:30am mass we are having a special Anniversary celebration. Our choir will have special music and we will have some light refreshments available after mass.

### *Special Dispensation Being Lifted August 15*

The Catholic Bishops of Pennsylvania will reinstate the obligation to attend Mass effective Sunday, August 15 after having a special dispensation issued during the Covid-19 pandemic. Those who have health issues are still not obligated to attend mass in person.

### *Religious Education Program*

We are really excited to restart our Sunday School Program beginning in the fall. LisaJoy Finch, Joelynn Parham, and Julie Mondello are working hard to select proper books, teaching tools and evaluated classroom space. Families who have children are asked to please register as soon as possible so we have a good idea what the count will be for space purposes. For information, please e-mail: [religoueducation@sbtmparishpgh.com](mailto:religoueducation@sbtmparishpgh.com).

If you would like to sponsor a student for books, craft supplies, music and retreats donations are still being accepted. (The cost to educate one child is \$50). Please make donations payable

to St. Benedict the Moor and memo the check: Sunday School Sponsor Donation.

Our Religious Education Program will begin Sunday, October 3 and will run 9:30am to 10:45am. Our Sunday Mass will be moving to 11am once the Religious Education Program begins. More details will be coming in the next few weeks.

### *St. Benedict the Moor Center*

As we continue to prepare to transfer ownership of the former St. Benedict the Moor School, Rectory and Convent property on Bedford Avenue, Hunt Studios will be removing several religious stained-glass windows from both the school building and the convent in the next few weeks. Several parish and school signs have already been removed and we recently had several tree branches that fell during the recent storms cleaned up in front of the convent and Lwanga House.

We hope to hear from the Diocesan Legal Office and Office of Property of Planning soon as to when the closing of the real estate transaction will take place for the Hill Dance Academy (HDAT) to take ownership of the property.

### *Welcome Home*

A special welcome to **Grayson Howard** who recently registered at St. Benedict the Moor.

### *Something to Think About...*

*You can never get enough of what you do not need to make you happy.*

*- Eric Hoffer*

**With God, All Things Are Possible!**

**Fr. Tom Burke,  
Pastor**

[tburke@diopitt.org](mailto:tburke@diopitt.org)

## Fr. David Taylor



For several years I served as a board member of the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. I was well aware of the

significance of the food bank. At the time I was involved with the food pantries in Homewood and Lincoln-Lemington. Now I also share in this ministry in Wilkinsburg and the Hill District. Parish food banks are much more than a place to pick up food. I learned on the board the significance of volunteering as a vital part of this ministry. Hunger is much more than a lack of food; it is a place where both volunteers and recipients learn much about caring and sharing. When there is a physical need, there is also the need for spiritual support. Those who volunteer usually receive much more than they give. For many years our Homewood food bank has been located where I live. This has been both a joy and a blessing.

What people want and need are both important. Jesus knew this as he helped his disciples to serve the many needs of his people. Serving the poor means identifying with the poor. And we all can do this. Serving others means very little unless there is a real desire to be one with them. There are many gospel stories of Jesus feeding those who hunger. Today's gospel is much more than a story of miracles. It is at the very heart of discipleship. Those who give today may very well be those who need tomorrow. St Benedict the Moor and St. Mary Magdalene parishes are both called to live out this ministry with all of those around us. Caring and sharing are not options but essential to the faith we all profess.

## Fr. Matthew Hawkins



At the end of the Gospel According to St. Matthew, Jesus' eleven disciples went to Galilee and climbed the

mountain where he said he would meet them. The Gospel reads: "Then Jesus approached and said to them, 'All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.'"

Our hearts are moved when we read this passage because we recognize in it something that is at the core of who we are as Christians, and what we are called to do. A Christian is a person who is sent, not someone who has turned in on him or herself in fear of the world. The very meaning of the "Mass", which we celebrate, is "the sending," which is derived from "dismissal". At the end of the Mass we say, "Go forth..."

It is often said that the Church does not have a mission, rather, a mission has a Church. Missionary activity is not just something we do, it is something we are. On July 13th, we celebrated the anniversary of the establishment of St. Benedict the Moor as a personal parish for African American culture. The parish was originally established in 1889. The anniversary of this personal parish is not only important for Pittsburgh's African Americans, it is important for all Catholics in the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

The reason it is important is simple: few

African Americans are Catholic, and few Catholics are African American. We should never be satisfied with this. There are historical reasons that help to explain how this evolved, and there are contemporary circumstances that perpetuate this state of affairs, but we all have a responsibility to address it. Part of the effort in addressing it is by presenting the message and the liturgy of the Catholic Church within the historical and cultural context of the African American experience, just as we do for every other culture or nationality.

When Jesus said, "make disciples of all nations," he was giving us the formula for evangelization: the Body of Christ will never be complete until it engages all cultures and peoples on the earth. The Church has something to offer them, and they have something to offer us. Each culture that the Church engages contributes something new and powerful to our worship experience. We learn from them, and they learn from us.

The missionary character of the Church is such that "being sent" is not optional, it activates our life in Christ. Knowledge of Christ is not an abstract concept, it is a lived experience. We cannot know the Christ of sacred scripture if we do not know Christ in our brothers and sisters, whom we still regard as "strangers."

**Bible Study with Fr. Matthew is on Thursdays at 7pm on Zoom. For more information, contact Fr. Matthew at [mhawkins@diopitt.org](mailto:mhawkins@diopitt.org). or call (412) 661-7222. To register, see the Bible Study page on our website, <https://sbtmparishpgh.com/bible-study>**

# ST. BENEDICT THE MOOR PARISH WANTS YOUR HELP!

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