



# Saint Benedict the Moor Parish

*Personal Parish for Black Catholics in Pittsburgh*

*"With God All Things Are Possible!"*

**AUGUST 15, 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

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

Jeannette Finch, Sacristan

Ray Krivanek, Maintenance

Jennifer L. Whitley, Bulletin Editor:

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

Religious Education

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



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

**[office@sbtmparishpgh.com](mailto:office@sbtmparishpgh.com) • 412.281.3141**

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  
Martí 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  
Christina Hall  
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

August 15 10:30 am  
*Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

Fr. Thomas J. Burke

Helen Funari  
(Sr. Mary Ann Siedlarczyk)

August 22 10:30 am  
*Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Fr. Thomas J. Burke

Otis D. Davis  
(Mr. & Mrs. Keith Younger)

### Stewardship

The collection for August 15 will be reported  
in the August 22 bulletin.

### Dear SBTM Family,

Personally, I wanted to say thank you for the welcome you've given my family into the family of St Benedict the Moor. I wanted to share with you an update about Vagabond Missions both nationally and locally. This past year has been difficult but has also been filled with God's grace and provision. Nationally, Vagabond Missions is doubling its footprint with new cities - Philadelphia, New Orleans, Indianapolis, and Mobile. Our staff has doubled in the past two years. God is doing amazing things both here in Pittsburgh and our ministry around the US. Considering both our growth and the parish's needs, we have begun to search for a new, more long-term home for our Vagabond Missions offices in the coming months and a more permanent youth center in the Hill District. Our commitment to the neighborhoods and the teens we serve especially the Hill District, hasn't changed. We look forward to finding ways to partner with the parish as the personal parish of St. Benedict continues to grow and take shape. Join us anytime for anything we are doing in the community with inner-city teenagers daily.

In Christ,  
Andy Lesnefsky

Let us open our hearts in sympathy and prayer for Richard Stewart on the recent passing of his daughter, **Jeannette Turner**. Ms. Turner's homegoing services were this past Tuesday, August 10, 2021 at Carrone Baptist Church. Keep Ms. Turner, Rich, and their family and friends in your prayers.

*"Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her."*



*Congratulations to Simeon Chielu who graduated from Point Park University this year with a Doctorate Degree!*



The bulletin has a new email address for all announcements:  
[bulletin@sbtmparishpgh.com](mailto:bulletin@sbtmparishpgh.com)

Announcements are due by Monday at 9am for the next week's bulletin.

**ELECTRONICS** **5678** **baby items**  
Hill Dance Academy Theatre  
**HDAT**  
J.B. Linton Spirits & Food  
Ayisha A. Morgan-Lee, Ed.D., Founder, CEO & Artistic Director  
**TOYS** **OFFICE SUPPLIES & FURNITURE**  
**CLOTHING** **Community Pandemic** **Jewelry**  
**DESIGNER HANDBAGS** **GARAGE SALE** **DANCE ATTIRE**  
**& MORE!**

**Food & Fun** **SATURDAY AUGUST 28** For more information and vendor opportunities visit 5678dat.org or call 412-586-7903  
9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**2900 Bedford Avenue (parking lot)**  
Masks or face coverings are encouraged and social distancing measures will be in place



## Pastor's Note

### **Assumption of Mary**

This weekend we pause from reading the "Bread of Life Discourse", which we have been reading the past several Sundays, to celebrate the Assumption of Mary. This feast celebrates when God assumed her body into heaven where she now enjoys full union with her Lord. While not in Sacred Scripture, Mary's bodily Assumption into heaven is an ancient church belief that we continue to celebrate today. Mary's assumption points to the fullness of salvation that will be given to the entire church with the Lord's second coming. The Assumption means that after her physical death, Mary's body was not allowed to remain on earth to corrupt, but was caused by God to come into its transfigured and glorified state. Mary's assumption is a sign and source of hope for us.

In the First Reading from the Book of Revelation, John sees a vivid portrayal of dramatic events in God's plan of salvation. The vision features the striking picture of a woman surrounded by lights of heaven; she is clearly associated to God. She represents God's holy people carrying deep inside the messianic promises expressed by God as the plan of salvation unfolds. This book describes the ultimate battle between God and evil, and this reading is meant to encourage the early Christians by assuring them that God would finally triumph.

In the Gospel of Luke, we read the Visitation, as Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth. We read about two exceptional women, both pregnant with what will become very exceptional sons. St. John the Baptist leaps in his mother's womb, as Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit when her cousin Mary visits her. Mary recites the beautiful "Magnificat" prayer.

We look to Our Lady as a model of how to faithfully live our daily lives with hope in God's eternal mercy. Considered to be the first disciple, Mary shows us what it means to bring the love of Christ into the world. Discipleship calls to live according to the word of God.

### **Religious Education Program**

We are really excited to restart our Sunday School Program beginning Sunday, October 3 from 9:45am to 10:45am. LisaJoy Finch, Joelynn Parham, and Julie Mondello are working hard to select proper books, teaching tools, and evaluating the classroom space. Families who have children are asked to please register as soon as possible. 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 Sunday Mass will be moving to 11am once the Religious Education Program begins. More details will be coming in the next few weeks. \*

### **Vagabond Ministries Relocating**

Due to our parish needing more office and meeting room space, and reopening our Religious Education program, the Vagabond Ministries will be relocating their offices to another location in the next several weeks. Please see the

enclosed notice from Andy Lesnefsky. The Vagabond Missionaries will continue to serve our youth in the Hill District Community.

### **Parish Improvements**

Several electrical repairs have been done inside and outside of the church. A spotlight above the tabernacle and the outdoor lights at the front entrance of the church steps have been upgraded.

The top of the side steps from our parking lot to the side entrance of church was recently repatched.

### **Bell Tower**

The Verdin Company of Cincinnati, Ohio recently inspected the church bells that are in our bell tower. The bells have not been in use for many years and are in need of repair. We will keep you posted on the cost to repair them.

### **RCIA**

Do you want to learn more about the Catholic faith? Are you baptized in another faith and would like to be Catholic? Are you baptized Catholic but need communion and or confirmed? The Rite of Christian Initiation Program (RCIA) will be starting soon. Please give me a call at (412) 661-7222 ext. 202 or e-mail me at [tburke@diopitt.org](mailto:tburke@diopitt.org) to discuss.

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

"Remember that only one thing is necessary to save your soul. We must become holy, and through our good works, help others who are waiting for our help to become holy too."

- St. Mary Mazzarello

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

**Fr. Tom Burke,  
Pastor**  
[tburke@diopitt.org](mailto:tburke@diopitt.org)

### Fr. David Taylor



One thing in common all the many feast days in honor of Mary have with each other is that they, without question, lead us to Christ. Mary's life reflects the truth that we are all one in Christ. Mary's life and ministry takes us where we are and leads us to her son. I often think of Mary as Our Lady of Sorrows. Her role in salvation history led her to the cross many times in life. From her humble beginnings to the many times she was rejected, she indeed paralleled the passion and death of the Lord.

This is shown most clearly in the Magnificat. Mary shows us that it must begin in the human heart. When we renounce hatred, bigotry, selfishness, and apathy toward others, we accept God's invitation to generosity and justice. When we live this way, trouble will often come our way. Mary was a member of two oppressed minorities. She was both a woman and a Jew. She has given us courage to struggle for human rights and dignity. Her Magnificat presents a real challenge to the church. There are times when we see the church and define it as a home only for those who look like us and only share the values that we have. The church must be a home where there is "Plenty Good Room" for all.

We must always be a church that prioritizes inclusion rather than exclusion. We are a church where everyone is imperfect, and we can surely learn a lot from those who may be different than ourselves. The church never gains from putting down others, and when we judge others, we also must judge ourselves. Mary tells us that the God who is mighty has done great things for her and can indeed do great things for us as well. When we see others as sisters and brothers as she did, then we too can proclaim the greatness of God and rejoice in him.

### Fr. Matthew Hawkins



The miraculous thing about our Blessed Mother is how she revealed God to the world through her willingness to

cooperate with the Holy Spirit. Down through the ages, it has been difficult for us to reconcile Mary's status as the Queen of Heaven and Mother of the Church with her humility, even to the point of referring to herself as the lowest of servants. This should show us that dignity and humility go together. In the Book of Revelation, the Apostle John saw an image in the Heavens that is interpreted as a vision of the Blessed Mother. He wrote: "A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars."

The Blessed Virgin is seen in dignity, splendor and glory. This image resonates well with the Psalmist's description in which he wrote: "The queen takes her place at your right hand in gold of Ophir." The glory of the Blessed Mother, and our glory as her children in Christ, was not something that she was naturally entitled to. It came to her as a gift of God. The Blessed Mother attained such glory because Christ was revealed to the world through her. The significance of this revelation was not lost on the Apostle Paul who wrote in his First Letter to the Corinthians: "In Christ shall all be brought to life ... he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death."

We celebrate the Blessed Virgin because she has revealed to us the path to life. For this reason, we should not be surprised by

the Church's understanding that, upon her death, Mary's body and soul were assumed into heaven. This gives us hope that we too will be reunited, body and soul, when we are resurrected on the last day.

When she received the message from an angel that she would give birth to the salvation of the world, she did not lord it over her kinswomen or demand that people pay her homage. Instead, she identified herself with others in servitude and rushed to assist her kinswoman Elizabeth saying, "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant."

The queenly splendor that rightfully belonged to the Blessed Mother contrasted with the humility with which she embraced her role as the Mother of our Creator. Should anything less be expected of us? The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a time for us to reflect on Mary's dignity and glory coupled with her humility, because she bore Christ, the salvation of the world. The assumption of the Blessed Virgin into heaven, body and soul, gives us hope that we too will defy death and be made whole at the end of time. With that hope, let us conduct ourselves with dignity and humility, and let us dedicate ourselves to revealing Christ to the world.

**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, visit <https://sbtmparishpgh.com/bible-study>**

# ST. BENEDICT THE MOOR PARISH WANTS YOUR HELP!

**Do you or someone you know have a great business in town that should be on the bulletin?**  
**If so please contact Rick Cortez at 1-412-292-0132 or [RCortez@Diocesan.com](mailto:RCortez@Diocesan.com) to reserve space on the new color bulletin**  
Our weekly bulletin is entirely supported by the sponsors that appear on the back pages

Advertising on the weekly parish bulletin is a great return on your advertising dollar in that the expense is tax deductible and the ad will promote your cause throughout the community



**Help us reach and inform our parishioners with weekly communication efforts**

