



Saint Benedict the Moor Parish

Personal Parish for Black Catholics in Pittsburgh

"With God All Things Are Possible!"

AUGUST 22, 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:
tburke@diopitt.org

Rev. David H. Taylor,
Senior Parochial Vicar:
dtaylor@diopitt.org

Rev. C. Matthew Hawkins,
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Religious Education
religiouseducation@sbtmparishpgh.com



**Pray for all students
and teachers to excel
and be safe.**



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

office@sbtmparishpgh.com • 412.281.3141

Website:
sbtmparishpgh.com



St. Benedict the Moor Parish-PGH



SBTMPARISHPGH



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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
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
Christina Hall
Vincent 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 22 10:30 am
Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Fr. Thomas J. Burke

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

August 29 10:30 am
Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Fr. Matthew Hawkins

Mr. Scott Henderson
(Ms. Patricia Ellis)

Stewardship

The collection for August 1, 8, 15 & 22 will be reported in the August 29 bulletin.

blackfacts.com

August 22 1843, a national convention of Black men was held in Buffalo, New York. The Black abolitionist, Henry Highland Garnett, called for a slave revolt and general strike across Black America. Frederick Douglass denounced the speech. On August 22, 1844, a mass meeting of Blacks in Boston adopted a resolution declaring that segregated public schools in that city violated the State's Constitution. Their request was denied.

Franciscan Sisters, T.O.R.—Please join us for our Share His Mercy Benefit 2021, themed *Living by Faith: In the Footsteps of St. Joseph*. This year we joyfully extend the invitation to join us at our home, our Motherhouse. The event begins with lunch at 1pm. This meal will include indoor or outdoor seating options for our guests. Following the meal, our program will be held in our chapel, where our sisters will share their original music and what inspired it. A Sunday vigil Mass will close our time together. Additionally, we will be offering the option for guests to join us virtually from their own homes. Please consider attending or sponsoring this event, as it is our most significant fundraiser of the year. Registration is required for both options and can be found under the events page at www.franciscansisterstor.org. If you have any questions or need more information, please feel free to contact Sr. Anna Rose at 740-544- 5542 ext. 135.

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 is the cost for one child, or whatever you can afford.

For More Information Please See LisaJoy Finch, Joelynn Parham, or Julie Mondello. You can also email religionseducation@sbtmparishpgh.com

Classes begin Sunday, October 3 from 9:30am to 10:45am. Families who have children are asked to register as soon as possible.

Scholarship Opportunity

The Wilkins Elks Lodge has scholarship available for 2022 graduating seniors. The Scholarships range from \$4,000 to \$50,000 paid over 4 years. There are over 500 scholarships available. The scholarship is called the *Most Valuable Student Scholarship*. In addition, there are other scholarship awards available.

Applications are all online at: www.enf.elks.org/MVS. When you go into the scholarship application it will ask you which lodge you want to file under, please select **Wilkins #577**, if available to you. The site also includes FAQs and deadlines for filling. The deadline for submitting your application is a Nov 15, 2021. No affiliation with the Elks is required and there are no costs to apply. Any questions, please contact Debbie Raible 412-860-7088.

5678
HDAT
Nicks A. Morgan, Inc. LLC - Founder, CEO & Artistic Director

Community Pandemic GARAGE SALE

Food & Fun
SATURDAY AUGUST 28
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

The bulletin has a new email address for all announcements: bulletin@sbtmparishpgh.com

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



Pastor's Note

Follow Me!

This weekend, we celebrate the Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time, and the readings focus on keeping the faith and trusting in the Lord. In the first reading from Joshua, we read how a wise teacher becomes an example of faith for the tribes of Israel as he challenges them to choose whether they will serve the Lord or serve false gods.

In the Second Reading to the Ephesians, St. Paul uses the image of marriage as a relationship to express the bond that exists between Christ and the church. That love ought to be reflected in the selfless love that a husband has for his wife and wife's respect for her husband.

In the Gospel of John, we read the conclusion of the "Bread of Life Discourse" as the disciples of Jesus are faced with a vital decision; either to stay with Jesus or to leave him. This part of the gospel highlights the response to what Jesus has said about himself as the bread of life.

A good number of disciples raise serious doubts about what Jesus has been saying and most reject him. Knowing that a good number of his disciples have left him, Jesus turns to the twelve. He offers them an opportunity to also leave. Peter speaks for all the twelve and they all choose to stay with Jesus.

Through faith, the twelve firmly believe that Jesus is the holy one of God. Let us see ways in which we become more aware of Jesus as the one who brings God's peace. When we follow Christ, we can come to

know happiness, a sense that our lives have purpose and meaning. As we prepare to go back to school, work and continue to go through the Covid-19 pandemic and adjusting our routine and daily changing measures, let us see how we can keep focused, stay strong and keep the faith.

School Bells

The Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh will open the schools for the 2021-2022 school year for Elementary School Students this coming **Thursday, August 26**. We welcome back Principal **Audrey Bowser** and the students, faculty, and staff of **St. Benedict the Moor School**. All our Catholic schools will offer in-person or distance learning, and hybrid plans will be put in place to offer a quality Catholic Education for our children.

Religious Education Program

Our Religious Education "Sunday School" Program begins 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 religiouseducation@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: "Religious Education Sponsor Donation." Our Sunday Mass will be moving to 11am beginning on Sunday, October 3.

Vagabond Ministries Relocating

Due to our parish needing more meeting room and classroom space, Vagabond Ministries will be relocating their offices to another location in the next several weeks. The two bathrooms on the second floor are in major need of upgrades and repairs.

Parish Improvements

Graphics 22 of Hazelwood has installed several new signs around our campus including the front entrance of the parish office, a new Private Property Parking sign for the side parking lot, and a new sign will eventually be seen along Centre Avenue and on the front and side entrances of the church to give us more visibility that we are alive, well, and growing!

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 September 14. Please give me a call at (412) 661-7222 ext. 202 or e-mail me at tburke@diopitt.org to discuss.

Happy Birthday!

Happy Birthday to **Marcus Smith**, who assists with cleaning the church on Monday mornings, who celebrated his birthday on August 10th.

Something to Think About...

We must keep going at anything we do until we get our second wind. One enjoys a mountain climb more after passing through the first mountain of discouraged exhaustion. One becomes more interested in a job or work after the first impulse to drop it has been overcome.

- Bishop Fulton Sheen

With God, All Things Are Possible!

Fr. Tom Burke,
Pastor
tburke@diopitt.org

Fr. David Taylor

One of the major cornerstones of our faith is the reality that all our decisions have moral implications. What we do and how we live, reveals how we regard our neighbor. This is

especially true for those in positions of leadership. Every decision involves accountability and responsibility. The prophets of the Old Testament were painfully aware of this. This is why many were reluctant to answer the call of the Lord. They had to speak for God as well as the people they were called to serve. Joshua was called to serve in some of the most difficult times in Israel's history. He was aware of his own limitations and failures when he had to preside at the covenant renewal ceremony shortly after entering the promised land.

The fact that he succeeded Moses, Israel's greatest leader, made his leadership all the more challenging. One of the supreme tests of moral leadership is the ability to make moral decisions and convince others to follow. Joshua, as well as many other prophets, continued to walk and lead by faith. In today's concluding gospel on the Eucharist, Jesus insists that his disciples make a decision. The Apostles knew there was no other way but to follow the Lord. One of the best signs of successful leadership is the ability to lead in spite of doubt and weakness. We too are called to make many moral decisions. There is much discussion today about the role of freedom in making decisions. God gives all of us freedom with the power to choose. These decisions always have consequences not only for ourselves, but for many others.

Because we are free, we must be responsible for our choices. God will never take away our freedom and its consequences. When we abuse these freedoms, many others suffer. All our decisions are moral. Our choices can never be just about us. This is the gift and the challenge of discipleship. Our decisions relative to the present pandemic show how vital decisions can be. Personal freedom and choice can never supersede the health and welfare of others. This disease has altered the life and actions of all of us. But like all suffering and pain it has provided us with another opportunity to put the welfare of others ahead of our own personal desires. Yes, it always takes the Cross to show us the way.

Fr. Matthew Hawkins

The call to Christianity is a call to conversion, even if we have been raised within the Church from childhood. Again and again the sacraments

we receive, and our reading in sacred scripture, calls for a renewal of our minds and of our hearts. Our lives as Christians should be lives of continual conversion and renewal. We have to let go of our former ways of doing things.

The consequences of clinging to former ways are all around us, they are in the headlines. Our former ways lead to hoarding and wastefulness; they lead to reckless consumption of the world's resources, reckless disregard for the delicate balance of God's creation, and profiteering off of other people's misery.

In our first reading today, Joshua challenged the tribes of Israel who claim to be following him to examine where their values really lie. Joshua said: "If it does not please you to serve the LORD, decide today whom you will serve... As for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." We are all faced with choosing between values that lead to life and values that lead to death.

Because of a combination of factors, including the unwillingness of the wealthiest nations to temporarily suspend intellectual property rights so that inexpensive generic versions of the Covid vaccine can be produced for the global south, the hoarding and wasting vaccines in the richest nations, and restrictions on the export of key ingredients in the vaccine, Covid-19 cases are surging in the southern hemisphere, particularly in Africa and Asia, as only 1% of people in low-income countries have been given at least one dose of the vaccine according to the Oxford Martin School on global development at the University of Oxford in the UK.

Meanwhile, vaccines that the wealthiest nations, where they have been stockpiled, are going to waste. In the state of North Carolina, for example, 800,000 vaccines have been tossed out because they were not used before their expiration date while 60,000 vaccines in Alabama are

being tossed out. Vaccines in other parts of the United States and the European Union are meeting similar fates while the Center for Disease Control reports that Americans are averaging 100,000 new Covid infections a day and intensive care units in many hospitals are on the verge of being overwhelmed.

The outlook for global climate change does not look much better. Drawing from more than 14,000 scientific studies from around the world, the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), that provides the most comprehensive and detailed picture of how climate change is affecting the environment, issued a "code red." The report said that the world is warming at a more alarming rate than previous projections had indicated. This means that we can expect to see an acceleration of extreme weather events, including severe fires and flooding.

In the Gospel reading this week, we encounter one of the most haunting passages in sacred scripture. As Jesus explained to his followers that being a Christian will require a radical conversion of their lives and that it is God the Father who draws people to Christ, "Many of his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him." Twelve of the disciples, however, remained.

In the Gospel we read, "Jesus then said to the Twelve, 'Do you also want to leave?' Simon Peter answered him, 'Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.'" When we are too attached to our former ways of doing things, we make it difficult to follow Christ down new paths. Not only does this hamper our spiritual growth, it leads us to live in ways that disregard Christ's call to placing a greater value on human life than on the accumulation of luxuries, faithful stewardship of the world's resources, and the care for the environment. Our former way of life prevents us from living our lives in Christ.

Bible Study with Fr. Matthew is on Thursdays at 7pm on Zoom. For more information, contact Fr. Matthew at 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 to reserve space on the new color bulletin

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