



Saint Benedict the Moor Parish

Personal Parish for Black Catholics in Pittsburgh

"With God All Things Are Possible!"

SEPTEMBER 26, 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,
Parochial Vicar:
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Rev. Mr. Brendon J. Harfmann
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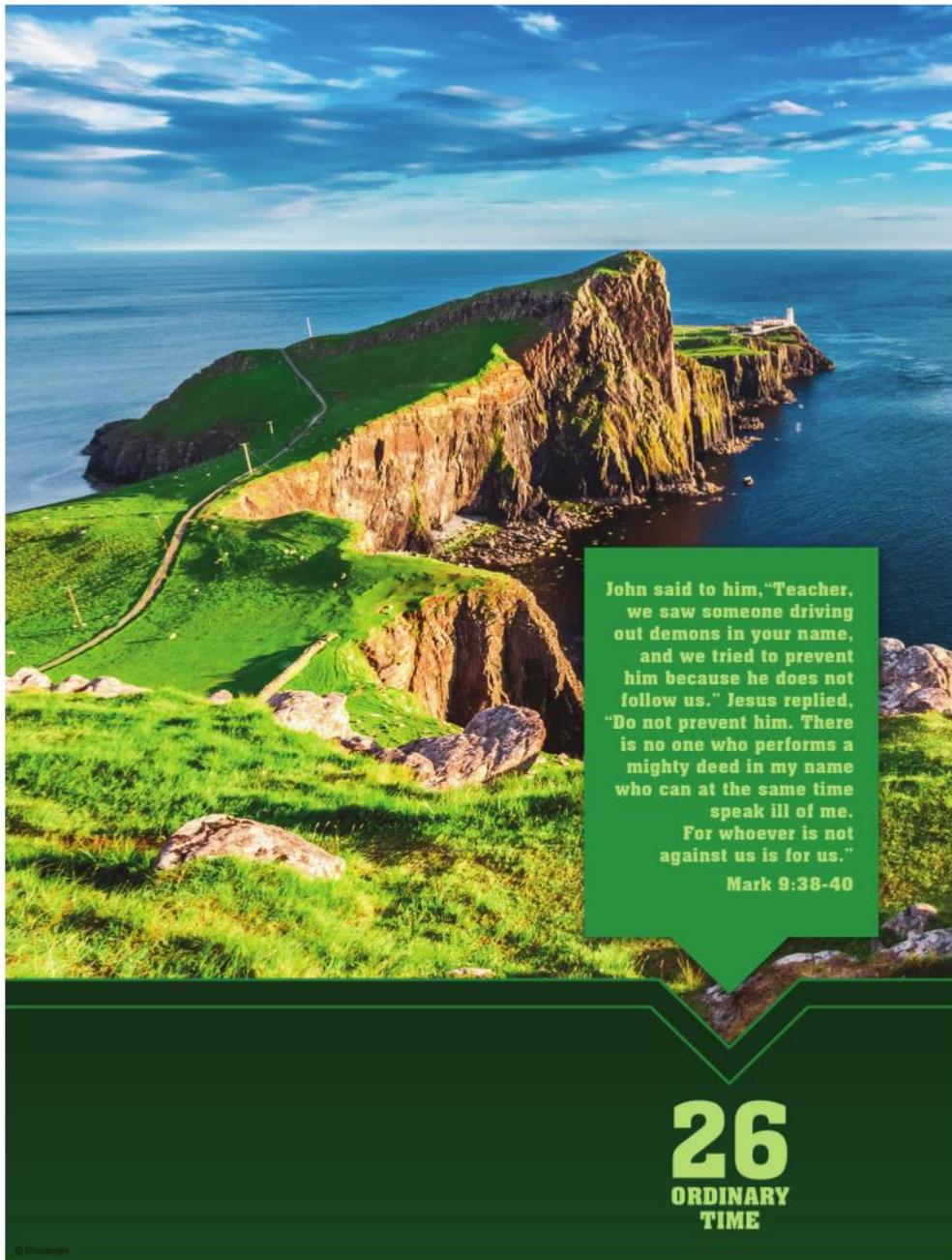
Christopher Catone, Music Director

Priscilla Davis, Office Manager
office@sbtmparishpgh.com

Jeannette Finch, Sacristan

Ray Krivanek, Maintenance

Jennifer L. Whitley, Bulletin Editor:
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John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone driving out demons in your name, and we tried to prevent him because he does not follow us." Jesus replied, "Do not prevent him. There is no one who performs a mighty deed in my name who can at the same time speak ill of me. For whoever is not against us is for us."

Mark 9:38-40

26
ORDINARY
TIME

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](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.

Joseph Anthony
Duane Ashley
Dorothy Brisbane
Donald Cillo
Martha Cillo
Marti Cillo
Marqus Clancy
Rita Costa
Edward Davis

Gloria 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

September 26 10:30 am
Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Fr. Thomas J. Burke

St. Vincent de Paul+
(Mother Teresa Conference,
St. Vincent de Paul)

blackfacts.com

Black Facts — Sept 26 “Winnie Madikizela-Mandela was born September 26, 1936 in Mbizana, Pondoland Union of South Africa. Winnie Mandela, was a South African anti-apartheid activist and politician, and the second wife of Nelson Mandela. She served as a Member of Parliament from 1994 to 2003, and from 2009 until her death, and was a deputy minister of arts and culture from 1994 to 1996. A member of the African National Congress (ANC) political party, she served on the ANC's National Executive Committee and headed its Women's League. Madikizela-Mandela was known to her supporters as the "Mother of the Nation". She passed away on April 2, 2018.”

Stewardship SEPTEMBER 19

Offertory	PSP	Special Collections
\$1,947.91	\$245.00	\$695.00

Saint Benedict the Moor Gardening Group

Would you be interested in getting together to plant and/or tend to the flowers and plants around our church? Not everyone has to dig in the earth; we can use advice too. Please see Sister Jan after church or call the convent at 412-621-0519 or email her at jef425@yahoo.com

St. Vincent de Paul's Freedom Corner Celebration

Help Us Help our Neighbors by registering for our annual **Help Thy Neighbor Walk**. For \$25, you'll receive a raffle ticket, T-shirt and refreshments, as we gather at Freedom Corner after Mass on September 26th for a photograph and celebration of our Neighbors. Since last Fall, we have provided over **\$13,000** in rent, utility, furniture, food and clothing assistance. And with your help we can do even more! Not up for a walk? Then how about a raffle ticket? For \$5, you can get a chance to win \$5,000, \$2,500 or \$1,000. Walk registrations and raffle tickets will be available in the back of the church after Mass from *Sept. 12 through Sept. 26*. All proceeds from the celebration and raffle go to support the great work of our Mother Teresa Conference of St. Vincent de Paul. Thank you and may God Bless you!

SBTM CHOIR RETURNING SOON

The St. Benedict the Moor Parish Choir will resume singing on **Sunday, Oct., 3rd at the 11am Mass**. The first rehearsal will be held on **Weds., Sept., 29th at 7pm** in the Church. Please see Chris Catone, Music Director, after Mass if you are interested in singing.



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 at 6:30 am on KDKA-AM. Fr. Tom's guest on September 26 will be Jessica Webster, Head of School at the Campus Laboratory School of Carlow University.

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



Pastor's Note

All Are Welcome!

This weekend we celebrate the Twenty-Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time. The readings this weekend focus on making personal changes in our life.

In the first reading from Numbers, we read how Moses wishes all the people would have the gift of preaching the word of God. We read how God has arranged for Moses to hear the word of God proclaimed by the elders. Joshua is a little rigid and narrow minded on who should be preaching but it is Moses who understands the people need the word of God.

In the second reading from James, we read how James has strong words for those who use their wealth to satisfy their own desires rather than the needs of others.

In the Gospel of Mark, we read how this gospel passage concentrates on the demands for entering the kingdom of God. Jesus manifests great tolerance for those casting out demons in his name and condemns those who create scandal for the "little ones"- not necessarily children but those whose faith is still tender or disciples just beginning their journey.

As the Autumn season is upon us and the leaves are starting to change colors and the temperature becomes cooler, Baptism calls us to spread the gospel through our words and deeds. Jesus'

graphic illustration reminds the disciples that they must be ready to let go of everything, including their pride, to enter the Kingdom of God.

Nobody should be prevented from invoking the power of Jesus' name to drive out demons. Our responsibility is to welcome those gifts wherever they appear. As a personal parish for Black Catholics in Pittsburgh, we welcome all who enter our church doors and to gather in praise and worship. Let us be open to the promptings of the Spirit in our own lives and allow God to come upon us.

Religious Education Program

Our Religious Education Program begins next Sunday, October 3 from 9:45am to 10:45am. Families who have children are asked to please register as soon as possible. For information, please e-mail religiouseducation@sbtmparishpgh.com.

11am Mass, Effective Sunday Oct. 3

Please note that our Sunday Mass will be moving to 11am beginning next Sunday, October 3. Please see the letter from Fr. John Gizler, our Regional Vicar, which was included in the bulletin a few weeks ago. We will have extra copies available on the information table in front the church.

Blessing of the Pets

In honor of St. Francis of Assisi, Patron Saint of Animals, St. Benedict the Moor and St. Mary Magdalene Parishes will conduct the annual Blessing of Pets next Sunday, October 3 at 3pm on the Green Lawn of the St. Bede Campus of St. Mary Magdalene Parish at the corner of S. Dallas Avenue and Willard Street in Point Breeze. Please bring your furry little friend to get blessed.

Parish Improvements

We recently placed new welcome mats at the front and side church entrance doorways and on the front and side porch of the Parish Office. These nice

red mats, along with our St. Benedict the Moor Parish logo, are a welcoming sight. Special thanks to Sean Halpate from Cintas for helping us with this project.

Graphics 22 of Hazelwood recently installed new St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Parish lettering above the two main doors of the front entrance of the church.

The Diocesan Office of Property and Planning along with S&N Roofing recently inspected our church roof that is currently leaking in several areas. S&N will be putting us on their fall schedule to come and do some repairs to hold us over for the winter season. We will be eventually needing a total new roof soon. The Finance Council and parish staff will be discussing this in the next few months along with also looking at needing to repair our bells in the bell tower that are currently out of order.

Parish Registration

Every Catholic needs a place call home. If you are not officially registered, we have registration forms in the back of our church, or you can call Priscilla Davis at the parish office at 412-281-3141.

Happy Birthday to our Bulletin Editor, Jennifer Whitley, who is celebrating her birthday this coming Tuesday, September 28!

Something to Think About...

Every individual has a place to fill in the world and is important in some respect whether he chooses to be so or not.

-Nathaniel Hawthorne

With God, All Things Are Possible!

Fr. Tom Burke,
Pastor
tburke@diopitt.org

Fr. David Taylor



It is often said that the best way to lead is by example. This is especially true when it comes to issues of faith and morality.

Much of the criticism

in the New Testament was given to religious leaders who taught the faith but rarely lived by it. And there are countless examples of individuals never recognized as religious leaders, but they have instilled faith and goodness throughout their lives. This kind of encouragement helps all of us in our daily service to others.

In today's readings both Jesus and Moses recognize the goodness of many who teach and give good examples to others without the need of being appointed or commissioned to do so. We can often overlook these individuals who both spread the faith and work tirelessly as moral examples for all of us. They realize the value of leading by example, something religious leaders can tend to minimize. I have found a lot of support and affirmation in my own ministry from many good individuals not recognized as moral or religious leaders. Unfortunately, these good people are sometimes overlooked and not recognized for the good they often do.

James points out in his epistle the harm often done when we fail to use our many resources to help those most in need. Many recognize this and are trying to encourage others to change from selfish priorities. As we go through life, goodness and leadership must be utilized wherever we find it. We appoint and commission, but God puts out the call to service.

Fr. Matthew Hawkins



As Catholics, there are two things we must guard against: being complacent about our spiritual growth and failing to

recognize the presence of the Holy Spirit in people who are not part of our faith community. We are complacent about our spiritual growth when we treat our faith as a matter of merely checking the boxes and meeting weekly obligations. The essence of faith, however, is to encounter Christ and grow in the Holy Spirit. Fortunately, even non-Catholics are capable of this, but many Catholics fail to do so.

One of the themes in this week's readings is about absent people from the assembly. First, there is an encounter with God. Notice the similarity between the passage from the Book of Numbers and the description of Pentecost in the Acts of the Apostles. In Numbers, we read:

The LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to Moses. Then, taking some of the Spirit that was on Moses, the LORD bestowed it on the seventy elders; and as the Spirit came to rest on them, they prophesied.

Similarly, the description of Pentecost reads:

Suddenly, a noise like a strong driving wind came from the sky, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim (Acts 2: 2-4).

These passages describe the pouring out of the Holy Spirit upon the elders of the community, enabling them to guide the community in faith. But, this

week's readings from the Book of Numbers and the Gospel of Mark also describe how technicalities do not limit God.

In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus' disciples tried to prevent a man from driving out demons in Jesus's name because the man was not part of their group. Jesus himself said to them: "Do not prevent him. No one performs a mighty deed in my name who can at the same time speak ill of me. Whoever is not against us is for us."

We often look with suspicion on non-Catholics who do not meet all the technicalities of our faith but who are, nonetheless, filled with the Spirit. Writing in his theological work, *The Church We Believe In* (1989), Fr. Francis Sullivan pointed out that: "... a non-Catholic community, perhaps lacking much in the order of means [of salvation], can achieve a higher degree of communion in the life of Christ in faith, hope, and love than many a Catholic community," if the Catholic community does not make use of the gifts available to them while the non-Catholic community participates in those gifts.

We should celebrate when the Holy Spirit finds people wherever they are. We should celebrate when the blessings of the Catholic Church spill over into other communities. However, we should also make sure that our life of faith consists of more than merely checking the boxes. We must encounter Christ. Significantly, when Moses' aide complained that two absent men were nonetheless filled with the Holy Spirit and were prophesying, Moses said to them, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the people of the LORD were prophets! Would that the LORD might bestow his spirit on them all!" Moses' wish should be our wish, that all the people of the Lord will respond to the invitation from the Holy Spirit.

ST. BENEDICT THE MOOR PARISH WANTS YOUR HELP!

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