



Saint Benedict the Moor Parish

Personal Parish for Black Catholics in Pittsburgh

"With God All Things Are Possible!"

OCTOBER 10, 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,
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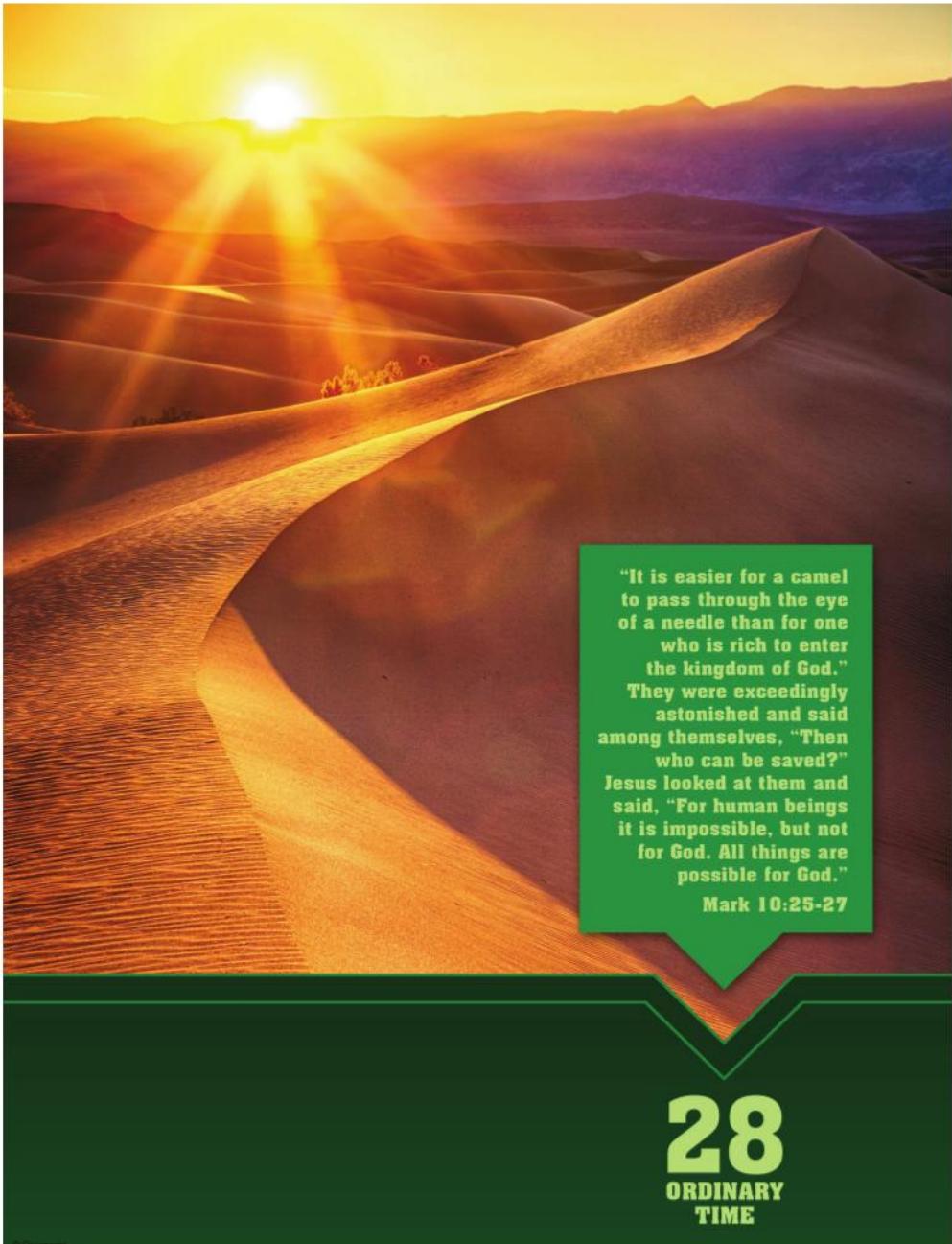
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St. Benedict the Moor Parish-PGH



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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.

Joseph Anthony
Duane Ashley
Dorothy Brisbane
Donald Cillo
Martha Cillo
Marti Cillo
Marcus 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

October 10 11:00 am
Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Fr. Matthew Hawkins
Cheryl Akins
(Cecily Akins and Family)

October 17 11:00 am
Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Fr. Thomas J. Burke
Bernadette Tossou
(Justin and Adrienne Ebo)



This week
the Sanctuary Candle
is lit in Remembrance of
Mrs. Gertrude Stotts
Comer by Victoria
Betsill

Stewardship OCTOBER 3

Offertory	PSP	Special Collections
\$3,233.00	\$705.00	\$1,568.00

blackfacts.com

Black Facts — Oct 10 1906, "Mary Church Terrell gave a speech entitled "What it Means to be Colored in the Capital of the United States" at the United Women's Club in Washington, D.C. Her speech examined just how much racism permeated her daily life, as well as the long-term impact it had on African-American youth. "Washington, D.C. has been called 'The Colored Man's Paradise...'" Terrell began, "but it would be difficult to find a worse misnomer for Washington than the 'Colored Man's Paradise' if one knew the facts and had any regard for the truth." She described in detail how she would not be served at many restaurants or boarding houses in the city or how she would be thrown out of a theater or a church. Although she had been fortunate enough to attend college, she outlined how education remained inaccessible for most African-Americans, who found themselves relegated to low-paying positions and subject to employment and housing discrimination. When the speech was immortalized in her 1940 autobiography, *A Colored Woman in a White World*, it remained largely unchanged except for additional instances of discrimination. But D.C.'s demographics were changing. In 1957, it became the first major U.S. city to have a majority African-American population. Although true racial equality remained elusive, at the end of her life Terrell began to see Jim Crow laws crumble, with a new generation of activists taking her words of justice and perseverance to heart."



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 October 10 will be Leslie Mitros, Head of School at Aquinas Academy.

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

Thank You!

Thank you parents for bringing your children to Sunday School and for being on time. It was such a joy to spend time getting to know everyone on our first day back. We look forward to seeing you again today!

- The Sunday School Team

"Listening to Mary Lou's Mass" featuring the Deanna Witkowski Trio

Saturday, October 23rd at 7:00 pm
at St. Benedict the Moor Parish

Come and enjoy an evening of introduction to the liturgical music of Mary Lou Williams. This is a lecture/performance event which is designed to give the jazz layman access to Mary Lou's sacred music.



Pastor's Note

All Things Are Possible for God!

Back in the summer of 1995 I can remember making the biggest decision in my life, making a "career change" from Public Relations and Marketing to entering the Seminary to study for the priesthood. After a year discerning, I made the decision to resign from my job as a District Executive for the Greater Pittsburgh Council, Boy Scouts of America, move out of my apartment on Miller Street at Crawford Square, which is across the street from St. Benedict the Moor, and enter St. Paul Seminary/Duquesne University to study for the Priesthood for the Diocese of Pittsburgh. Having had completed college, working in the business world for three years and having my own apartment, I collected a lot of "stuff" over the years which I needed to let go to enter the seminary.

Ever since I was a student in the seminary, I have used the slogan "With God, All Things Are Possible." Each day this slogan keeps me grounded, humbled and always moving forward in life.

This weekend, we celebrate the Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time. The readings this weekend focus on removing the obstacles and possessions in our life that block us from becoming closer to God.

In the First Reading from the Book of Wisdom, we read how a wise King Solomon recognizes that the wisdom that comes from God is the greatest treasure of all. This reading, which is considered the central part of the book, emphasizes

how this superior wisdom cannot be attained by any human initiative alone but through a sincere relationship with God.

In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus has an exchange with a young man with many possessions, who asks what he must do to inherit eternal life. Jesus was not condemning the man for his wealth but wanted this man to break free from what was hindering him from living as a whole-hearted disciple. To hold on to power, control, security, and possessions can be exceedingly difficult. It is not having riches that poses an obstacle; rather it is what one does with one's possessions.

If Jesus asks us to leave everything right now, how would we respond? What treasure gleams more brightly than Jesus? The Lord never stops calling us to follow him, to leave behind what holds us back. One cannot carry heavy baggage around while following Jesus, one must travel lightly.

This weekend, parishes across the Diocese of Pittsburgh will be celebrating National Faith and Blue Weekend which is a joint community outreach program focusing on resolution and reconciliation. The initiative by religious and police leaders intends to bring law enforcement officers and citizens together using local houses of worship in their community to facilitate. Police Officers from the City of Pittsburgh and Wilkinsburg, along with other local agencies will be joining us for mass and greeting parishioners at the door.

Religious Education Program

Our Religious Education Program began last weekend. Everything went very well the first week. We welcome back all our young children and their families, and look forward to a great school year. The program will run every Sunday morning from 9:45am to 10:45am. Families who have children and have not yet registered can e-mail Lisa Joy Finch at religouseducation@sbtmparishpgh.com.

Looking Ahead

Pastoral Council Meeting- Sunday, October 17 in the sacristy after the 11am mass.

Mary Lou Williams Pre-Concert

Saturday, October 23 at 7pm in church. More details about this program will be in the bulletin the next few weeks.

Parish Improvements

Tarax Service Systems Inc. will be on campus the next few weeks deep-cleaning and buffing the main entrance lobby flooring, deep-cleaning the Men's and Women's Rest Rooms, spot cleaning all the chairs that we use in the back of the church for socials, the choir chairs, and the extra chairs in the sacristy. The Parish Rectory first floor kitchen and basement will get deep-cleaned and sanitized once Vagabond Ministries officially moves out of the second floor (which will be in the next few weeks), the carpeting and rooms will also be deep-cleaned and sanitized.

Wedding Bells

Congratulations to Farrah Holmes and Lamont Chatman who are celebrating their wedding this weekend.

Something to Think About...

If God is the center of your life, no words are necessary. Your mere presence will touch hearts.

- *St. Vincent de Paul*

With God, All Things Are Possible!

**Fr. Tom Burke,
Pastor**
tburke@diopitt.org

Fr. David Taylor



There is a saying that if you ask a question, you may get an answer. The answer, however, may not be the one you are assuming. The man in the gospel was seeking self-

justification. This is something we never fully achieve in this world. We all have something or someone we are unwilling to sacrifice. That may be what we need to reconsider if we really are serious about being a disciple. Abandoning all for the sake of the kingdom is not an easy decision to make. But we must consider it if we have decided to follow Jesus.

Throughout my years as a pastor, I nearly always faced a challenge of attempting to serve, often lacking the resources I thought necessary. I learned to accept the challenge. This involved asking many others to accept the same challenge. I learned that with faith a lot can be accomplished with limited resources. I was blessed with an abundance of opportunities to serve. I had to learn to leave the outcomes to the Lord. It is true that less money and material resources does not always lead to less care and concern in ministry. And it is often true that those who have less can be most generous. I was thinking of "the widow's mite" in the gospel. We can look at our resources and always find how to use them for the maximum service of others. What most people need the most is personal care and understanding for the difficulties they face daily in their lives. The only price is our willingness to give the time and effort to making this a priority in life.

As many other gospels illustrate, it is not what we have but how we use our possessions that determine how we stand as disciples. There is always going to be a need for "more" but most of our effort should be given to using what we already have, to serve as many as possible. God will open many new opportunities for us as long as we are willing to make the necessary sacrifices to make them happen. The hymn, "I have decided to follow Jesus", shows the inspiration we all can have in mission and ministry.

Fr. Matthew Hawkins



Last week, the focus of our readings was on the nature of relationships. We talked about our relationship with

each other and our relationship with God. The week before, the focus was what it means to be members of the Body of Christ and how we should pursue the Spirit of Truth in ecumenical and interfaith cooperation and dialogue. This week the focus is on why it is essential for us to be guided by the Spirit of Wisdom through detachment from a world that is passing away.

Our first reading reminds us to be open to the wisdom that God bestows on us. Many people believe that "the good life" can be gained through endless consumption, but the author of our first reading prayed for the spirit of wisdom, noting that wisdom is not like "any priceless gem," because "all gold, in view of her, is a little sand [and] silver is to be accounted mire."

Wisdom enables us to deeply know ourselves and to discover how to live. We experience joy when this discovery takes hold of us. The Psalm reads: "Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain wisdom of heart ... fill us at daybreak with your kindness, that we may shout for joy and gladness..." Similarly, the author of the letter to the Hebrews described the power of the word of God to reveal things that we hide from ourselves: "the word of God is living and effective, sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating between soul and spirit, joints and marrow, and able to discern reflections and thoughts of the heart."

We should all draw on the deep wells of 2,000 years of Catholic spirituality. These rich traditions within our faith allow us to deepen our wisdom and understanding of who we are as individuals, as a community, and as members of society. They also enable us to work with people from other faiths. Rather than a "clash of civilizations," Saint Pope John Paul II proposed a "dialogue of cultures." How we worship, who we are, and what we represent in the world must be grounded in the wisdom and spirituality of our faith.

In the Gospel this week, Jesus showed the path to wisdom by letting go of our attachment to things that prevent us from encountering God in spirit and in truth. He told the young man who had many possessions but wanted to know how he could inherit eternal life: "You are lacking one thing ... sell what you have and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." Our attachments hold us back like a weight that tethers a bird to the ground.

It is through the wisdom of our spirituality that we break through the illusion of separation from one another and our natural environment. This is the message of creation theology and Christian anthropology. It is why detachment is essential for becoming good stewards of the earth. All things are united in Christ, as the apostle Paul said in Colossians 1:16-17: "For in him were created all things in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible ... all things were created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together." The wisdom of the ages teaches us to let go of the transitory so that we may grasp the eternal.

ST. BENEDICT THE MOOR PARISH WANTS YOUR HELP!

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