



Saint Benedict the Moor Parish

Personal Parish for Black Catholics in Pittsburgh

"With God All Things Are Possible!"

DECEMBER 5, 2021

Mass Schedule

Sunday 11:00 am

Livestream:

facebook.com/SBTMPGH/live

**Sacrament
of Reconciliation,
Baptisms, Weddings,
and Funerals**

by appointment.



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:

mhawkins@diopitt.org

Rev. Mr. Brendon J. Harfmann

Seminarian:

brendon.harfmann@stvincent.edu

Christopher Catone, Music Director:

music@sbtmparishpgh.com

Priscilla Davis, Office Manager:

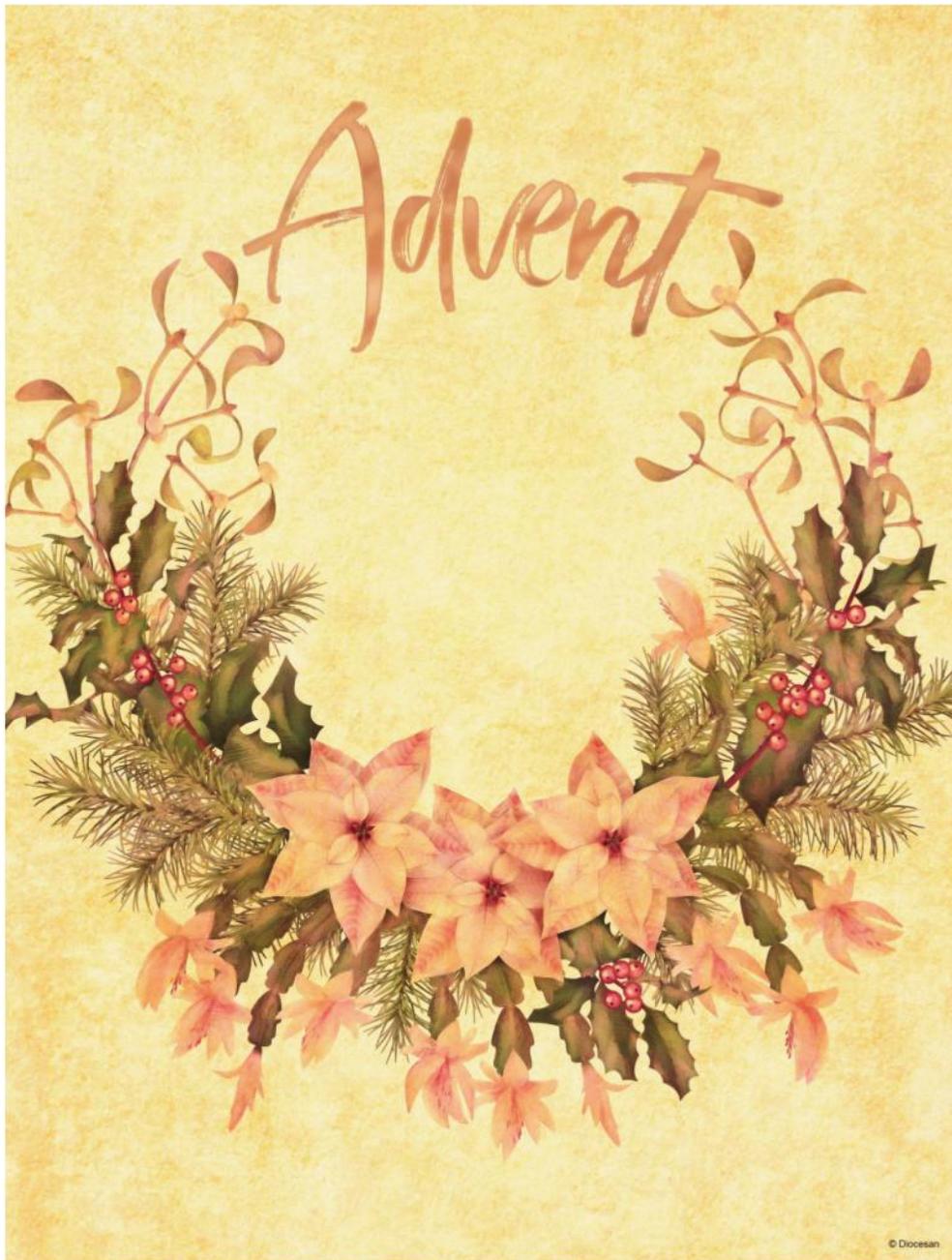
office@sbtmparishpgh.com

Jeannette Finch, Sacristan

Ray Krivanek, Maintenance

Jennifer L. Whitley, Bulletin Editor:

bulletin@sbtmparishpgh.com



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](https://www.facebook.com/St.BenedicttheMoorParish-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
Lucille Dabney
Dorothy Dansby

Edward Davis
Gloria Davis
Priscilla Davis
Rita Davis
Robert Davis
Dolores Denton
Frederick Elliott
Fomunjeng Family
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
Stella Lowden
Josephine O'Connor
Nicole Orlando
Mary Samuels
Genevieve Sanford
Janice Simmons
Rudolph Williams
Jenell Younger

Mass Intentions

December 5 11:00 am
Second Sunday of Advent
Fr. Thomas J. Burke
Bernadette Tossou+
(George & Adrienne Ebo)

December 12 11:00 am
Third Sunday of Advent
Fr. David Taylor
Frank & Rosa Csetter
(George Lee & Family)

Stewardship NOVEMBER 21

Offertory	PSP	Special Collections
\$5,332.00	\$195.00	\$1,318.55

Stewardship NOVEMBER 25

Offertory	PSP	Special Collections
\$383.75	\$100.00	\$60.00

Stewardship NOVEMBER 28

Offertory	PSP	Special Collections
\$2,311.00	\$125.00	\$592.00

*all flesh shall see the
salvation of God*

LUKE 3:6

Black Catholic History Facts

DAME MARY A. WALKER (March 17, 1918 – December 15, 2011) was a long time and faithful member of St. Benedict the Moor Parish and a prominent community leader in the Hill District. Miss Walker served in the United States Army (Women's Army Corps) during World War II. In 1970, she founded the Hill District Federal Credit Union that she managed for twenty-two years, which is still a vibrant financial and community institution today. On her birthday in 1992, the Centre Avenue building that houses the credit union was dedicated to her and Pittsburgh City Council declared that day as "Mary A. Walker Day" in the City of Pittsburgh.

Miss Walker received from Pope John Paul II the conferral of the Knighthood of Saint Gregory the Great and the title "Dame." The honor was bestowed at a special mass by Donald W. Wuerl, Bishop of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, on May 24, 1998 at St Benedict the Moor Church. At the time of the conferral, Dame Mary was the second female in the Diocese of Pittsburgh to receive the St. Gregory honor.



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 guests today, **December 5th** will be Roseanne Kwiatkowski, Principal, Amanda Zieger, Preschool Teacher, and Kacy Ruffin, School Counselor, of Northside Catholic Assumption Academy. A link to the podcasts of the program is on KDKA:

dkkaradio.radio.com/media/podcast/catholic-education-plus

THE CULTURAL ACTION TEAM invites all to a lively discussion led by Fr. Matthew Hawkins on Pope Francis' 9 points on social justice, and Jose H. Gomez, Archbishop of Los Angeles, views on social justice and race. **Monday, December 6 at 7 pm via Zoom.**

Please contact Linda Akins, lindadanza@verizon.net or Jennifer Gorske, jgorske@stmarymagpgh.org, for more information.

Also, don't forget, **Bible Study at 7 pm on Thursdays** with Fr. Matthew on Zoom.

For more information, contact Fr. Matthew at 412.661.7222 or mhawkins@diopitt.org.



Pastor's Note

Prepare! Get Ready!

This weekend we celebrate the Second Sunday of Advent. All the readings this weekend remind us to prepare and get ready for the Lord!

In today's first reading from Baruch, we read how a prophet invites a weary people to find strength in God's saving plan. As the city of Jerusalem is restored to life, it takes on a spiritual splendor and glory. The book of Baruch is a collection of prayers, poems, and prophetic speeches. This passage includes the prophet speaking to Jerusalem to comfort her and give her hope, telling her to stand tall, look toward Babylon in the east to see her children rejoicing, as they make their way toward her from across the lands.

In the second reading, from Paul to the Philippians, Paul is writing from prison and urges the community to continue to grow in Agape love- the kind of love that knows no bounds and that expects nothing in return.

In the gospel of Luke, we are introduced to John the Baptist, the cousin of Jesus and a central figure during the Advent season. John's message includes a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sin and prepares the way for the Messiah. John preached a message urging the people to be prepared for the coming of the Messiah. He grounded his proclamation to

prepare the way of the Lord.

Advent is a special time of preparing the way for Jesus. We need to get ready for the Lord by making a straight path. We have to keep our hearts and minds open so that we can get to know him personally. It is through Jesus that we get to know the love, mercy, and forgiveness of God.

The Coronavirus has brought us isolation and taken many lives and altered our way of life. Division in our families with the political and social justice issues, violence in our neighborhoods and across the nation can cause us to look at all the doom and gloom in our world. Let us not fall into the negativity of the world's problems, but look at the Advent Wreath with the two candles lit as a sign of light, hope and peace and prepare for the coming of the Lord.

Join the Choir

Now that our choir is officially up and running, we welcome those who love to sing to join our choir. The choir sings every Sunday morning at 11am and practices one hour after mass for the following Sunday. Please contact our Music Director, Chris Catone, if you are interested.

Looking Ahead

Feast of the Immaculate Conception - This coming Wednesday, December 8 at 6:30pm.

**Christmas Eve - Friday, December 24
Christmas Eve Midnight Mass will be broadcasting live from St. Benedict the Moor Church on KDKA Radio 1020AM and 100.1 FM with Fr. Tom**

Look for the Newspaper Ad in the New Pittsburgh Courier December 15 and 22 issues.

**Christmas Day - Saturday, December 25
11am - St. Benedict the Moor (Fr. Matt)**

**New Year's Day - Saturday, January 1
Feast of Mary, Mother of God *Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year because it falls on a Saturday. * No Mass**

**Sunday, January 2
11am- Mass**

Joint Pastoral/Finance Council Meeting

There will be a joint Pastoral and Finance Council meeting held today, Sunday, December 5 after the 11am mass in the church sacristy.

Financial Report

Enclosed in this weekend's bulletin is our parish financial report for the fiscal year, July 2020 to June 30, 2021. (It was going to appear in last week's bulletin but with the Thanksgiving holiday weekend we thought this week would be better to distribute it.)

We appreciate the generosity that parishioners have made throughout the year even with the challenge of Covid. For a small personal parish for Black Catholics in the inner city, we are alive continuing to spread the Good News! Without parishioners financially supporting the parish we would not be able to continue with the various improvement projects. We hope that contributions and Mass attendance improves, and the general economic situation normalizes.

Welcome

We offer a special warm welcome to **Adam, Wendy, Sydney, and Maya Dyer** who recently registered at St. Benedict the Moor Parish!

Something to Think About...

Just as one candle lights another and can light thousands of other candles, so one heart illuminates another heart and can illuminate thousands of other hearts.

- Leo Tolstoy

With God, All Things Are Possible!

**Fr. Tom Burke
Pastor**

tburke@diopitt.org

Fr. David Taylor

So much of our lives are spent in trying to remove barriers to freedom, justice, and the dignity we all share as people of God. This is often an uphill battle. The

scriptures take up this theme during the season of Advent. John reminds us that we are the ones who have to remove the barriers. God will provide the victory, but clearing the way is our responsibility. We cannot accomplish this if we cling to the past believing that things cannot change.

Many of us have had the challenge of waiting for change to take place without realizing that it has to begin with each of us. If we are content with waiting for "our turn" we may end our lives still waiting. Isaiah, John, and many other prophets show us the way. God helps those who are willing to help themselves and others. This part of the journey requires patience and persistence, and there will always be roadblocks along the way, but victory is assured. This all can be lost if we primarily focus on the materialism of the season.

As the Lord brought back the captives of Jerusalem he can and will free us if we are willing to take this journey hand in hand with our neighbor. Many look at the present time with hatred, lack of care for life, bigotry, and the continuous challenge of COVID-19, with hopelessness. Advent tells us that God is doing something new. He is waiting for our response. And there is no other time but the present moment.

I want to sincerely thank all of you for your kind and sincere cards, greetings, and gifts, on the occasion of my milestone birthday. What a blessing! May God continue to bless you for your goodness.

Fr. Matthew Hawkins

The season of Advent reminds us that no matter how discouraging and hopeless the events in our lives may seem we must

not be discouraged. It is often hard to imagine but God is at work "in the background," turning our sorrows into joy. The ancient texts from the psalms and the prophet Baruch remind us of this reality, as do the relatively more "recent" texts from the Gospel of Luke and the Letter of St. Paul to the Philippians.

The prophet Baruch, in our first reading for this week, described situations that bring the greatest sorrow into our lives. These are times when our family or friends are held in the grip of sin like captives and their lives are spiraling downward. When our loved ones suffer from illness, addiction, depression or sin, it may feel as though we are losing them to an enemy, as Baruch described: "Led away on foot by their enemies they left you..."

Despite our best efforts to stand by these friends or members of our family at the lowest points in their lives, nothing seems to change and our efforts seem futile. We sow good seed, but our best efforts seem not to take root. The author of Psalm 126 wrote about us in these times: "They go forth weeping, carrying the seed to be sown."

But the story doesn't end there. Baruch had first-hand experience with the cycle in which our lives move from order, to disorder, to a new order when he wrote with double meaning about the Jewish exile: "God will bring them back to you borne aloft in glory as on royal thrones." The author of Psalm 126 also made this point saying: "Although they go forth weeping, carrying the seed to be

sown. They shall come back rejoicing, carrying their sheaves." We sow in sorrow but "beneath the ground" and beyond our vision God works in hidden ways to bring about a harvest of joy.

When we are in the midst of painful ordeals it is difficult to imagine the joy that God has in store for us and the restoration of our loved ones at the end of time. Ultimately, Jesus promises that those we love will be liberated from their captivity to sin, illness, and spiritual or emotional distress if we have "faith the size of a mustard seed" and we keep them in our prayers. After all the trials we experience it is hard to imagine that we and the people we love will be made whole, but this is precisely what our faith and hope hold out for us. As the author of Psalm 126 described the liberation of the Hebrews: "When the LORD brought back the captives of Zion, we were like men dreaming. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with rejoicing."

The journey of Advent is a journey of hope and a journey of growth. In his letter to the Philippians the Apostle Paul wrote: "This is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value, so that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ..."

The circumstances of our lives often push us to the brink of despair, but we must not allow this to bring us to spiritual desolation. We must not judge the lives of other people or the path our own lives have taken by the worst moments. Like John the Baptizer, when he proclaimed the coming of Jesus, we should be inspired by the words of the prophet Isaiah who cried: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

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?

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