



Saint Benedict the Moor Parish

Personal Parish for Black Catholics in Pittsburgh

"With God All Things Are Possible!"

DECEMBER 12, 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

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Parochial Vicar:

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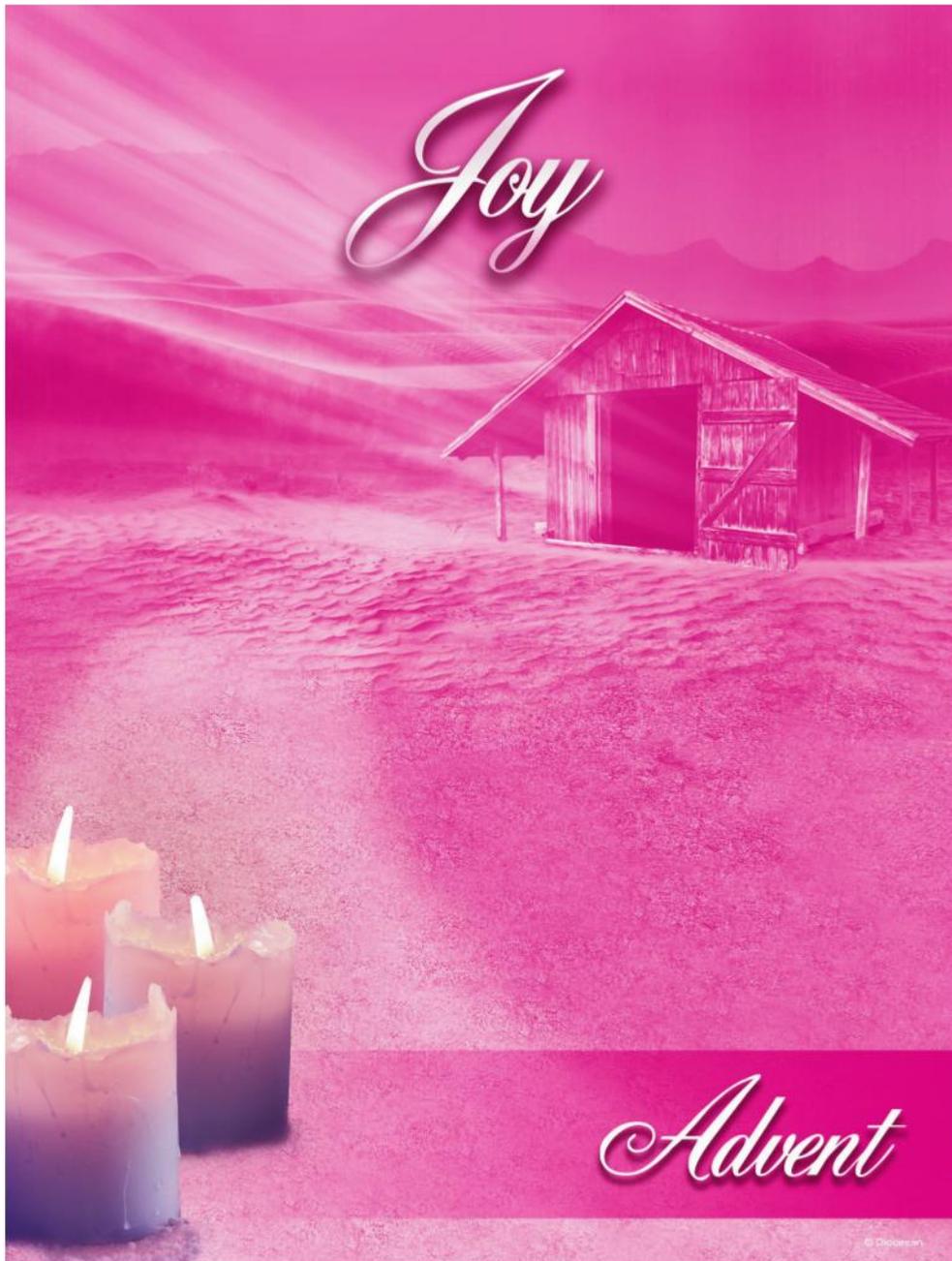
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[St. Benedict the Moor Parish-PGH](https://www.facebook.com/St.Benedict.the.Moor.Parish-PGH)



[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
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 12 11:00 am
Third Sunday of Advent

Fr. David Taylor

Frank & Rosa Csetter
(George Lee & Family)

December 19 11:00 am
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Fr. Matthew Hawkins

Mary Ann Josie Schnupp+
(Josephine O'Connor)

Stewardship DECEMBER 5

Offertory	PSP	Special Collections
\$3,707.00	\$175.00	\$685.00

Third Sunday

Behold, I am sending
my messenger ahead of
you; he will prepare
your way before you.

Matthew 11:10



Black History Facts

“George Grant was born on September 15, 1846, in Oswego, New York, to Phillis Pitt and Tudor Elandor Grant. He entered the Harvard School of Dental Medicine in 1868, and graduated in 1870. He then took a position in the department of mechanical dentistry in 1871, making him Harvard University's first African-American faculty member. Grant was a founding member and later the president of the Harvard Odonatological Society and was a member of the Harvard Dental Alumni Association where he was elected president in 1881. In 1899 he improved on Percy Ellis' "Perfectum" tee. Grant died on August 21, 1910, at his vacation home in Chester, New Hampshire, of liver disease.”

The Diocesan National Black Catholic Congress Leadership Team-PGH will have two Advent Bible Study sessions at St. Benedict the Moor Church on Sundays: Dec. 12th (TODAY) and Dec. 19th from 10 a.m. to 10:45 a.m., before Mass. These sessions are open to all, but we ask you register so that a study book will be reserved for you. Please feel free to attend one or both sessions, as we Watch, Wait and Wonder.... ALL ARE WELCOME and encouraged to participate. Advent Blessings: WE ARE WAITING FOR THE KING!!

Bible Study

with Fr. Matthew Thursdays at
7 pm on Zoom.
For more information, contact

Sunday School Schedule (April—May)

- April 03 – Regular Classes (St. Benedict the Moor Feast Day 04/04)
- April 10 – Regular Classes
- April 17 – No classes: Easter Vacation
- April 24 – Regular Classes
- May 01 – Regular Classes
- May 08 – No class; Mother's Day
- May 15 – Regular Classes; First Communion Retreat/ Rehearsal/Penance, - Parent must attend
- May 22 – Regular Classes; First Communion
- May 29 – Regular Classes



Pastor's Note

Rejoice!

Today is the third Sunday of Advent, traditionally called "Gaudete Sunday" which means Rejoice! We are halfway to Christmas! The pink candle in our Advent wreath signifies joy and hope and this weekend's readings focus on rejoicing, the Lord is near and do not be discouraged.

Entering the third week of Advent, we remain in expectant preparation for the coming of the Messiah. God is present and welcomes all. Being a Christian attest to a person's encounter with Jesus who leads us to the love of God.

In today's first reading from Zephaniah, we read how a prophet calls for songs of joy because God brings healing to a weary people. The prophet has a message of hope for a people who have at last made the choices to serve God's purpose in this world.

In the second reading, from the Letter to the Philippians, we read how the joy of faith leads believers to pray with confidence and gratitude. Because the Lord is near, believers have every reason to pray with confidence and gratitude.

In the gospel of St. Luke, we read how John the Baptist is the focus and he is preaching and directing the crowds, including the tax collectors and soldiers, urging them all to repent in preparation for the coming of the Messiah. All four

gospels affirm John the Baptist engaging in preaching, however only in Luke's gospel is the content of John's preaching described. John focuses on the ethical reform. Clothing and food must be shared with those who are in need, and tax collectors are to carry out their functions honestly. Reforming our lives in accordance with God's will for us must rejoice. Like John the Baptist, we must all prepare the way for Jesus within ourselves, our loved ones, and those with whom we associate with.

Advent is a season of waiting in joyful hope for the coming of the Lord. It is a time when we put a special focus on what we should. We ask this as a way of preparing our hearts for the incarnation and the coming of the Lord. Gaudete Sunday affirms the value of rejoicing, and gives reasons for rejoicing. With great rejoicing and longing for Christ's return, let us take John's words to heart and prepare ourselves to celebrate these sacred mysteries. To live a life of discipleship can be a source of profound joy.

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic and the cold winter season, let us light the pink candle this weekend and see the light of Christ shine on us and bring joy to someone who may be lonely or grieving the loss of a loved one this holiday season by making a phone call, or write a card to someone we have not talked to in a while. Let us rejoice this Gaudete Sunday!

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

**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 be-
cause it falls on a Saturday.* No Mass**

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

Financial Report

Last week in our bulletin we published our parish financial report for the fiscal year, July 2020 to June 30, 2021. We have extra copies on the information table in the back of the church.

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.

Something to Think About...

One kind word can warm three winter months.

- Japanese Proverb

With God, All Things Are Possible!

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

Fr. David Taylor

During my last years in the seminary as well as my Deacon year, I often thought of my preparation for a lifetime ministry in the priesthood. I tried to get as much

pastoral experience as possible with a full schedule of courses. I began to think that much of my experience would take place in my early years serving in parishes. A life of ministry requires the willingness to learn all along the way. I had to be not only a teacher but a student. This remains true for me today.

In today's Gospel from Luke many ask what is required to be a true follower of Christ. It is one thing to know a job description. But the Lord always asks us to go the extra mile. We often look for the minimum amount of effort to carry out our responsibilities, falling short of the Gospel mandate. John offers practical suggestions which should be obvious to anyone wanting to serve others. But our human weakness seeks an easier way out. Sharing from our abundance should be our everyday way of living, but for some generosity is a seasonal activity. The poor among us have the same needs throughout the year, far beyond Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Whatever job, ministry, vocation, or volunteer experience we may have should offer many opportunities to serve others, but our heart and compassion must lead the way. On this third Sunday of Advent, we focus on joy and rejoicing. There can be no better sense of joy than showing compassion and concern for those around us. St. Mother Teresa was often asked about the best way to serve. She said it is best to begin by looking around your own neighborhood and environment. We begin here and then increase our care and concern to our global neighbors. During Advent we have many opportunities to serve. Is there any more appropriate way to prepare for the Nativity? Learning how to be a disciple is a lifetime experience, and it all begins with each of us.

Fr. Matthew Hawkins

The theme for this week in Advent is to rejoice. It is marked by rose-colored vestments and candles and is known by the

Latin word for rejoicing, which is *gaudete*. It is remarkable that as the days grow shorter and the weather gets colder we are implored to rejoice and celebrate the springtime of God's love. This is because we are not called to be short-sighted, only living for the moment. We are called to take our inspiration from what is yet to come and the life that is unfolding inside of us as God renews all of creation.

Centuries before the coming of Christ the prophet Zephaniah told the people of God to rejoice as God rejoiced over them. During Advent we are reminded of Zephaniah's prophecy, foreshadowing the birth of Jesus, and that Christ is now in our midst despite the looming darkness that surrounds us. Zephaniah said that God's promise to renew us is the reason we should rejoice. Our willingness to allow God to renew us is the reason for God to take pleasure in our spiritual maturity. "Shout for joy, O daughter Zion!" writes Zephaniah, "Sing joyfully, O Israel! ... The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior; he will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love, he will sing joyfully because of you..."

God takes pleasure in seeing His people grow in His love. We take pleasure in celebrating God's willingness to dwell with us and among us. The Advent season is full of nuptial images of joy because it is a season that anticipates the "marriage" of God's divinity with our humanity in the birth of Jesus Christ. In today's psalm, we celebrate this joy when we sing: "Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy

One of Israel."

Likewise, the Apostle Paul told the Philippians that if they realized what it meant that God had chosen to draw near and dwell among them they would rejoice. In their heavenly-inspired celebration of joy they would overflow with kindness and the people around them would come to know the Lord. Paul wrote: "Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near."

Life would be meaningless and the world would seem empty were it not for the realization that God has chosen to draw near us and to dwell amongst us. Before Jesus was born and entered into our humanity our greatest hope was that our sins could temporarily be washed away. The only baptism that the prophets such as John the Baptist could offer humanity was a baptism of water, which was merely a sign and a natural element. It wasn't until God became one of us and entered into our humanity and redeemed it that the waters of baptism became more than a mere sign, so that they now have the effect of conferring on us the gift of the Holy Spirit. We should rejoice because when God chose to join His life to ours, nothing would ever be the same.

ST. BENEDICT THE MOOR PARISH WANTS YOUR HELP!

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