



# Saint Benedict the Moor Parish

*Personal Parish for Black Catholics in Pittsburgh*

*"With God All Things Are Possible!"*

**DECEMBER 26, 2021**

## Mass Schedule

Sunday 11:00 am

Livestream:

[facebook.com/SBTMPGH/live](https://facebook.com/SBTMPGH/live)

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

by appointment.



Our church is accessible.

## Staff

Rev. Thomas J. Burke, Pastor:

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Rev. David H. Taylor,

Senior Parochial Vicar:

[dtaylor@diopitt.org](mailto:dtaylor@diopitt.org)

Rev. C. Matthew Hawkins,

Parochial Vicar:

[mhawkins@diopitt.org](mailto:mhawkins@diopitt.org)

Rev. Mr. Brendon J. Harfmann

Seminarian:

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Christopher Catone, Music Director:

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Priscilla Davis, Office Manager:

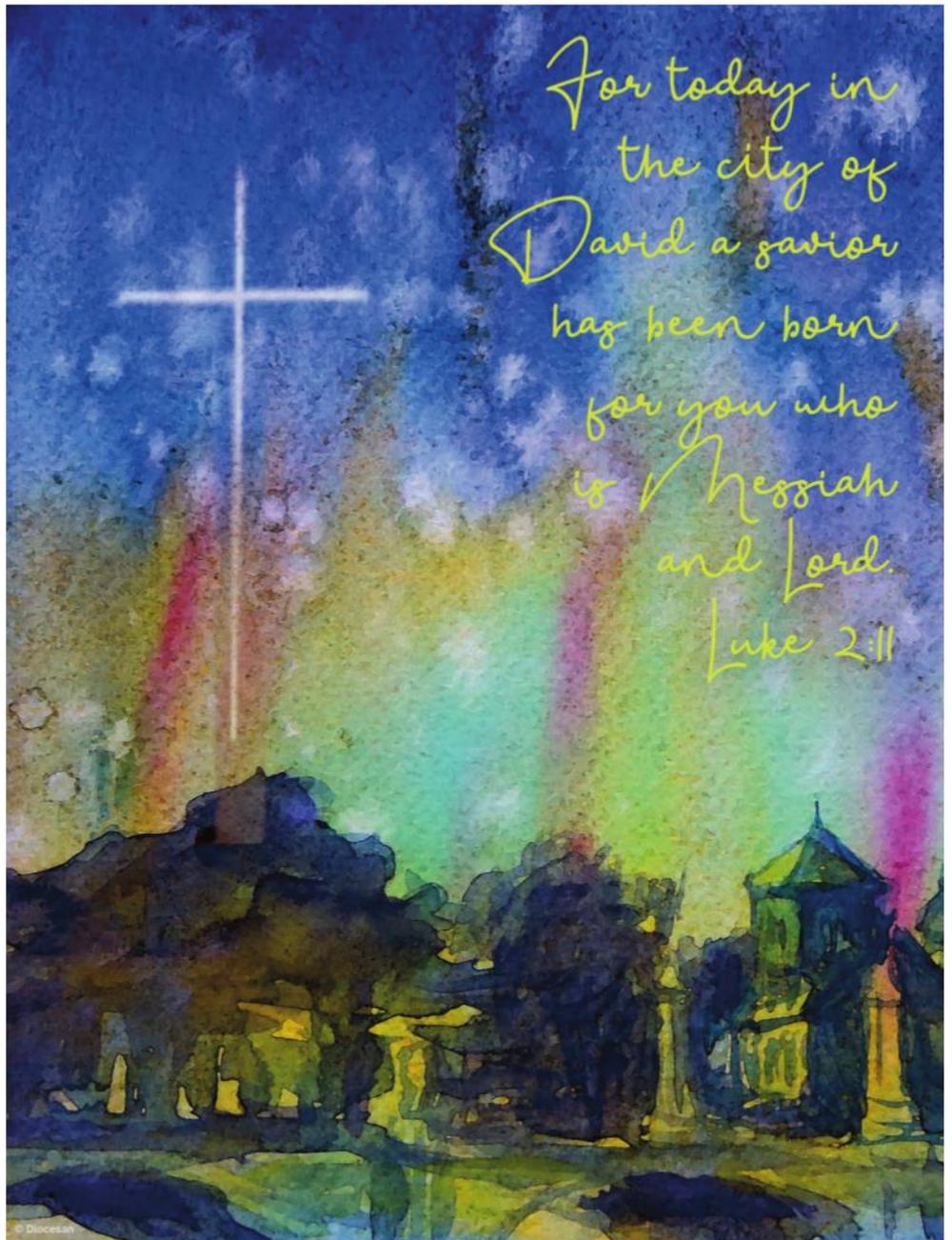
[office@sbtmparishpgh.com](mailto:office@sbtmparishpgh.com)

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Ray Krivanek, Maintenance

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[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](mailto: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 26 11:00 am  
*Feast of the Holy Family*

Fr. Thomas J. Burke

*Mr. Sunday Igbineweka*  
(Andrew & Pauline Igbineweka)

January 2 11:00 am  
*Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord*

Fr. Matthew Hawkins

*Herman "Sonny" Cronauer*  
(Gaye Velar)

## Stewardship DECEMBER 12

Offertory	PSP	Special Collections
\$3,440.00	\$775.00	\$2,376.00

**\*Stewardship for December 19th will be posted in the January 2nd bulletin\***

### Parish Share Status

**2021 Parish Assessment: \$30,000**  
**Parish Share Collected Year-to-Date: \$16,532**  
**Balance Due: \$13,468**

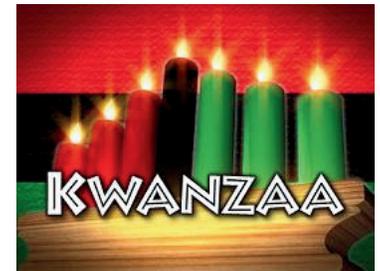


## Black History Facts

"Kwanzaa is an annual celebration of African-American culture that is held from December 26 to January 1, culminating in a communal feast called Karamu, usually held on the 6th day. It was created by Maulana Karenga, based on African harvest festival traditions from various parts of Africa, including West and Southeast Africa. Kwanzaa was first celebrated in 1966." Each of the seven days of Kwanzaa is dedicated to one of the seven principles of Kwanzaa:

1. **Umoja** (Unity): To strive for and to maintain unity in the family, community, nation, and race.
2. **Kujichagulia** (Self-Determination): To define and name ourselves, as well as to create and speak for ourselves.
3. **Ujima** (Collective Work and Responsibility): To build and maintain our community together and make our brothers' and sisters' problems our problems and to solve them together.
4. **Ujamaa** (Cooperative economics): To build and maintain our own stores, shops, and other businesses and to profit from them together.
5. **Nia** (Purpose): To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.
6. **Kuumba** (Creativity): To do always as much as we can, in the way we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.
7. **Imani** (Faith): To believe with all our hearts in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders, and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.

\*Taken from [Kwanzaa - Wikipedia](#)



### **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 **January 2nd** will be Joe Wilson, President of North Catholic High School in Cranberry Township.

A link to the podcasts of the program is on KDKA:

[dkkaradio.radio.com/media/podcast/catholic-education-plus](http://dkkaradio.radio.com/media/podcast/catholic-education-plus)



## Pastor's Note

### ***We Are Family!***

We all are part of a family, whether if it is blood related, school, work, or parish, we have each other to lean on. The Burke Family consists of my parents Bill and Marge, my sisters Lisa and Linda and brothers-in-law, Paul and Eric, nephews Michael, Matthew and Thomas, Wyatt, Donovan, Killian, and Keegan and a great niece Logan. The Burke family is very close knit, and I am blessed to have a good family.

Last year with the Covid-19 pandemic many parents "reconnected" with their children by having to stay home for work and school; some families did not see extended family and friends for over a year. Even with modern technology with Zoom and Facetime, we were able to "see" and talk to our loved ones, but nothing beats in-person events and dinners. Thankfully, this past year many families were able to celebrate in person holiday dinners such as Thanksgiving and Christmas.

This weekend we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. This Feast was added to the calendar by Pope Leo XIII in 1893 to highlight the importance of the Christian family and to point to the Holy Family as a model for all families to follow. This weekend we have two options in the Lectionary for the First and Second Reading. In the first reading from the Book of Samuel we read how Hannah dedicates her child Samuel to God.

In the Second Reading from the first Letter of St. John, God's chosen people are called to imitate the Lord in all that they say and do. Love one another just as he commanded us.

In the Gospel of Luke, we read "finding Jesus in the temple", the only story in the bible depicting Jesus as an adolescent. Jesus is found by his parents where he declares that he must be in his Father's house. In all four gospels Jesus testifies his divine sonship by referring to God as his Father. It also offers a glimpse into family life as experienced by Mary, Joseph, and Jesus.

The Holy Family had their challenges like us, but they are a great model to follow. We all face challenges every day. Let us pray for those families that are divided or experiencing divorce, separation, drug addiction, abuse, or infidelity. Let us pray that we all may become one.

### ***Looking Ahead***

**Our office is currently closed for the holidays and will reopen on Monday, January 3.**

**Please hold all phone calls and office business until after the Christmas and New Year's holidays. If you need assistance (for an emergency matter) please call my St. Mary Magdalene Parish office line at 412-661-7222 ext. 202.**

**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- Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord  
11am- Mass (Fr. Matthew)**

### ***Parish Improvements***

We recently added two additional microphones and a microphone stand for our choir. Special thanks to Mr. and Mrs. James Parham Sr. for their

generosity for making this purchase a possibility.

### ***Year-End Donations***

As you make decisions on your year-end contributions, please consider your St. Benedict the Moor Parish Community. Your financial contributions in the weekly offertory collection help us continue to keep the campus updated, clean and comfortable. With the Covid-19 pandemic there are extra costs with cleaning and sanitizing, and the extra costs this time of year with snow removal and salt. Please remember to also support our Parish Share Campaign. Our Goal is \$30,000 and we still owe \$15,000.

### ***Double Parking***

Since we are limited with the number of parking spaces in our church parking lot along Centre Avenue, if you come to church for Sunday mass and happen to "double park" please let one of the Ushers/Greeters know the make and color of your car and let them know that you double parked just in case there would be an emergency and someone would need to exit the parking lot early. We appreciate your understanding.

### ***Reflection***

On behalf of the entire St. Benedict the Moor staff, we wish you and your family a very blessed, healthy, and happy new year 2022!

### ***Something to Think About...***

***A Christian home is earth's sweetest picture of heaven.***

**With God, All Things Are Possible!**

**Fr. Tom Burke  
Pastor  
[tburke@diopitt.org](mailto:tburke@diopitt.org)**

**Fr. David Taylor**

One of the more popular songs of the late singer Luther Vandross was "A House Is Not a Home." It brings to mind that a family is required to make any house a home. This is true even

if the occupants are few. The most expensive and luxurious houses can only be a home if there is a family presence. The Holy Family, Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, learned through many difficult circumstances that home can be wherever there is love and care.

The home we focus on the most during this Christmas season is the stable in Bethlehem. This image is featured in all our churches. It is more significant than any of the Christmas decorations. It was cold and dirty, with every sign of poverty, and its occupants were migrants who had no place to go. But it was the finest home because of its occupants. Some of the most welcoming homes I have visited are occupied by families who face poverty every day. The presence of Christ is all around. The house may be falling apart but the occupants truly make it a home. The ideal home is where people are welcome. It is where family members are welcome to return, especially in times of need. Some of the most meaningful times I remember were when other families would come and stay with us during difficult times.

The Holy Family found "home" wherever they happened to be. The Christmas Story features a family always on a journey. These journeys were full of danger and many other challenges, but they never lost the sense of home. During this season of Christmas, the best gift is one of being with family, however, this is a gift, sadly, that many are not experiencing this year. Let's pray for the many families uprooted because of poverty, homelessness, and many dangers. This is especially true of the many refugees who daily, are in survival mode. The Holy Family found accommodations as meager as they must have been. Let us not turn our backs on the many who are looking for an open heart and an open door.

This is Christmas. It is all about family. Let us bring in the New Year with a new sense of generosity. The Holy Family shows us how.

**Fr. Matthew Hawkins**

This weekend we celebrate the Nativity of the Lord and the Feast of the Holy Family. We also commemorate the slaughter of

the Holy Innocents. These three days are compressed on this year's liturgical calendar and present us with stark contrasts. The moving images of the birth of Jesus Christ and the tightly knit union of the Holy Family are quickly followed by heart-wrenching images of the blood of newly born infants and toddlers.

It is remarkable when we reflect on the image of the vulnerable baby, wrapped in swaddling clothes in the stillness of the night in the small town of Bethlehem. We are reminded that we often cannot hear the voice of the Lord when we are in the middle of the bombast of the city or in the courtyard of powerful men. The Creator of the universe entered into our humanity as a helpless baby who was initially homeless, and was soon to become, with his family, a refugee in a foreign land.

It is in the stillness of these humble beginnings that God made His presence known to us. The Gospel of Matthew quotes Micah, the prophet who foresaw in Bethlehem, something great that would happen despite its small size: "And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel (Mt 2:6)."

The shepherds, who were the first to hear the proclamation of angels, were considered the least of the inhabitants of Israel because they were ritualistically "unclean." Even though they tended livestock for wealthier people to purchase for their own ritual sacrifice, the shepherds lacked the time or the resources to

purify themselves so that they could offer sacrifices on their own behalf. Moreover, their work made them outsiders and ruffians in the eyes of those who could afford to keep within the prescriptions of the ritual. Yet these shepherds were the first to genuflect and gaze into the face of the Lord in an act of adoration.

When the Holy Family was forced to flee from Jewish Palestine because of the king of Judea, Herod's, burning jealousy of a mere child, we are reminded that the family is the "domestic church" and the "school of charity." As the Holy Family fled into exile one is reminded that even in trying times when there is pressure on our families we learn to depend on one another and to think about more than just ourselves. We learn how to be charitable toward our neighbor and the stranger and we learn how to become gifts to the world. We can feel the intensity and the intimacy of the Holy Family.

But then there was the slaughter of the Holy Innocents, which was an inexplicable horror. We would like to journey through life without problems or pain; we would like to live in a world without suffering and sorrow. Our faith, however, is not an invitation to a flight into fantasy or escapism. Incomprehensible tragedies that weigh on our hearts and that bring us to tears surround us. Problems that we cannot solve under our own power confront us. Speculation and rationalizations about why God allows tragedies to happen will not make those tragedies easier to bear. Instead, in our stillness, in our smallness, in our humility and often within the domestic church of the family, that intimate school of charity, we must allow our hearts to be strengthened and nurtured so that we might become instruments of God's love in a suffering world.

Merry Christmas.

## 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](mailto:RCortez@Diocesan.com) to reserve space on the new color bulletin**

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