



Saint Benedict the Moor Parish

Personal Parish for Black Catholics in Pittsburgh

"With God All Things Are Possible!"

JANUARY 9, 2022

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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BAPTISM of the LORD

"I, the LORD, have called you for
justice, I have grasped
you by the hand;
I formed you, and set you as
a covenant for the people,
a light for the nations,
to open the eyes of the blind,
to bring out prisoners from confinement,
and from the dungeon,
those who live in darkness."

Isaiah 42:6-7

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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

January 9 11:00 am
Baptism of the Lord

Fr. David Taylor

Darrell Johnson
(Gaye Velar)

January 16 11:00 am
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Fr. Thomas J. Burke

Lillie Mae Waiters
(Priscilla Davis)

Stewardship DECEMBER 25

Offertory	PSP	Special Collections
\$1,792.00	\$125.00	\$185.00

Stewardship JANUARY 2

Offertory	PSP	Special Collections
\$2,356.00	\$505.00	\$215.00

Birthdays January 9th—15th

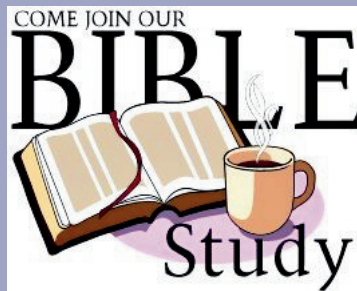
Taylor Nicole Johnson
Kathalyn Frazier-Howard
Darren Dolby
Elsie Moore
Ann Fultz
Claudia Harrison
William Harrison
Happy Birthday!!



Black Facts

Jerome Heartwell Holland, born January 9, 1916 in Auburn, New York was an American university president and diplomat. He was the first African-American to play football at Cornell University, and was chosen as an All-American in 1937 and in 1938. He was the first African-American to chair the American Red Cross Board of Governors, which named its laboratory for the biomedical sciences in his honor. He was the first African-American to sit on the board of the New York Stock Exchange (in 1972), and the first appointed to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's (MIT) governing body.

After graduating Cornell and teaching at Lincoln University, he attended the University of Pennsylvania, receiving his PhD in 1950. In 1953, he became president of the HBCU, Delaware State College, serving six years before becoming the ninth president of the Hampton Institute, from 1960 to 1970. In that year, he became ambassador to Sweden under President Nixon. He became a member of the College Football Hall of Fame in 1965. In 1972, the NCAA awarded Holland its Theodore Roosevelt Award. He passed away January 13, 1985 at the age of 69.



Bible Study with Fr. Matthew Hawkins

Thursdays at
7 pm on Zoom

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

To register, see the [Bible Study](#) page on our website



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 16th will be Michelle Peduto, Director of Catholic Schools.

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

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



Pastor's Note

A New Beginning!

This weekend we conclude the Christmas Season by celebrating the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Baptism is our gateway into the sacramental life of the church. This coming week we return to Ordinary Time before we start the season of Lent on Ash Wednesday, March 2.

In the First Reading from the Prophet Isaiah, we read how a humble servant of God teaches nations the way to justice. In the Second Reading from Paul to Titus, we read how Paul announces that God's saving plan embraces people of every nation. This letter to Titus characterizes this mission as God's great gift to humankind, given as a loving Spirit-sharing Savior who leads us into righteousness through his life and sacrifice lived with and for us. Baptism into this mission is just the beginning.

In the Gospel of Luke, we read Jesus is baptized by his cousin, John the Baptist, confirming his divine mission and revealing his identity as God's beloved Son. John is clear about his role and baptizing ministry as leading people to repentance to prepare the way for the one to come.

We have all been called through Baptism to the common vocations of holiness and service. As we begin a new year, 2022, we hopefully have turned the page from this past year and are moving forward with new goals and resolutions. Let us continue to be a Beacon of Hope here at St. Benedict the Moor Parish.

Updated COVID-19 Protocol

Last week Bishop Zubik sent out a reminder to all pastors of some updated COVID-19 Protocol Measures. With the Omicron variant causing an increase in the number of positive cases in our area, mask wearing is urgently encouraged for all attending Mass regardless of vaccination status.

The practice of extending the Sign of Peace at Mass is suspended until further notice and all greeters, ushers and Eucharistic ministers must wear masks. Priests and Deacons must continue to wear masks during the distribution of Holy Communion, and at all times except when speaking. Thank you for your cooperation.

Catholic Education Plus

Tune into KDKA Radio, 1020 am every other Sunday morning at 6:30 am for Catholic Education Plus. This program, which I host, highlights elementary and secondary schools, colleges, youth ministry programs, and more.

The next program will air next Sunday, January 16 with Michelle Peduto, Director of Catholic Schools. This radio program is sponsored by Sam and Judy Spanos and the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh.

Offertory Envelopes

Every registered parishioner should be receiving weekly offertory envelopes via mail or using the on living giving program "Faith Direct." Using your weekly offertory envelopes helps to run the day-to-day operations of our office, liturgical services, pays the insurance, taxes, and utilities and keeps our doors open to proclaim the Good News!

Other "Special" Envelopes are earmarked for specific purposes not attached to the regular Parish operating account including: Maintenance Fund, School Support, Parish Share Program, and Utility Assistance Program Envelope. If possible, please write a separate check for the weekly offertory but you can combine your "specials" into one payment.

We appreciate your support to our parish. If you are not receiving envelopes in the mail or are not signed up for the on-Line giving program Faith Direct, please call Priscilla Davis at the Office at 412-281-3141.

Parish Share

As you make decisions on your contributions, please consider our St. Benedict the Moor Parish Share Fund. Our Goal is \$30,000 and we still owe \$15,000. Parish Share is the yearly assessment that we receive from the Diocese of Pittsburgh that we must pay by February.

Parish Share helps operate the Diocesan Offices in Crafton, St. Paul Seminary where we educate our future priests, helps with high school and college campus ministry programs, and the hospital chaplaincy programs. We all benefit from Parish Share.

Happy Birthday

Happy Birthday to our Business Manager, **Frank Grande**, who is celebrating his birthday this weekend and our Parochial Vicar, **Fr. Matthew Hawkins**, who is celebrating his birthday this coming Friday, January 14!

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Mayor Ed Gainey** becoming the first African American Mayor of Pittsburgh this past Monday. I had the honor of participating in an Interfaith Day of Prayer for Pittsburgh last Sunday at Mt. Ararat Community Center in East Liberty.

Something to Think About...

If everyone does something, then we can do a lot.

- Blessed Pino Puglisi

With God, All Things Are Possible!

Fr. Tom Burke

Pastor

tburke@diopitt.org

Fr. David Taylor

It is meaningful that we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord near the beginning of the year. Baptism is a pivotal event in all our lives. It begins our sacramental life

in the church. This is the year of Luke, and so we have his version of the event. It is noteworthy that while John preached judgment and repentance, he opened the way for Jesus to take a more compassionate and gentle approach. We need both appeals. As Jesus is God's beloved Son, we become a member of the beloved community through baptism.

The baptism of Jesus can have several meanings for us, both symbolic and real. Jesus identified with sinners, and baptism gives us a new life in him. Jesus answered the call of discipleship and showed us the way to follow him, and baptism can be seen as a moment of decision for a lifetime of service.

This year we will be faced with many challenges; our Baptismal call will be essential to our responses. We are called to be healing and compassionate but at the same time to not be afraid to stand up and be forceful when it comes to issues of human rights and dignity, support of the poor and needy, and not being afraid to speak truth to power. Baptism is one of our most powerful calls to action.

Once we have given our life to Christ and our neighbor we must never turn back. We will have many opportunities this year to put our faith to work as we help renew our church in the Synodal process. The key is that we all are invited to take leadership.

Special thank you for all the kind cards, greetings, and gifts over the Christmas season. Truly appreciated.

Fr. Matthew Hawkins

When we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, we celebrate God's justice, not as something we deserve or have earned, but as

grace once we acknowledge our own shortcomings. We have a choice between two Old Testament readings this week. The first is from the 42nd chapter of the prophet Isaiah and the second from the 40th chapter of that book. The Gospel of Luke echoes the words found in Isaiah 42. In the Gospel of Luke, God said after Jesus' baptism: "You are my Son. With you, I am well pleased." Isaiah 42 reads: "Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased."

God's revelation to Isaiah made clear that his pleasure in Jesus came from the work that Jesus was to do to bring about justice and salvation in the world. After acknowledging that the Spirit of the Lord was upon Jesus, and this detail is very important, the Lord said of Jesus: "He shall bring forth justice to the nations, not crying out, not shouting, not making his voice heard in the street. A bruised reed he shall not break, and a smoldering wick he shall not quench until he establishes justice on the earth..." The spirit of the Lord had to be upon Jesus in order for him to do the work of justice; this is true of all of us. Unless we pursue justice in the Spirit of the Lord, we will only end up adding to the cycle of an unjust world.

It is notable that the justice of the Lord is not won through bombastic speech or the use of violence but through the interior examination and transformation of the seeker of justice. Ignatian spirituality is built upon this premise: pointing a finger at the short-coming of others is a way to avoid examination of the short-coming within oneself. This is the point that the author of the letter to Titus made in one of our options for the second reading today. The author of this letter noted that our redemption is not something that we have earned due to our merit. We receive redemption as grace out of the mercy of God. The author wrote, "When the kindness and generous love of God our savior appeared, not because of any righteous deeds we had done but because of his mercy, He saved us through the bath of

rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit..."

"Justice" that focuses on what someone else is doing wrong ends in self-righteousness and the search for scapegoats. The justice of the Lord requires ongoing self-examination so that we can recognize ourselves in others' shortcomings. Only then can justice be reliably pursued.

The justice that the Lord promised is both literal and figurative. It is liberation from all that imprisons and confines us physically and spiritually. Isaiah 42 says:

I, the LORD, have called you for the victory of justice,
I have grasped you by the hand;
I formed you, and set you
as a covenant of the people,
a light for the nations,
to open the eyes of the blind,
to bring out prisoners from confinement,
and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness.

This justice, which the second option for the first reading acknowledges, is not only characterized by fair treatment, but also forgiveness for our own transgressions. It requires acknowledgment of our transgressions in the first place. It is important to acknowledge the latter so as not to waste the former. This was the "comfort" offered to Jerusalem. Isaiah 40 reads:

Comfort, give comfort to my people,
says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim
to her that her service is at an end
her guilt is expiated...

And again, pointing to the spiritual conversion that leads to both physical and spiritual liberation Isaiah wrote: "A voice cries out in the desert, 'Prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland, a highway for our God!'"

The Baptism of the Lord marks the beginning of the liberation of the people from ignorance and slavery to sin as well as from the physical and social conditions that have fragmented our community. This liberation, however, begins with self-examination and acknowledging our shortcomings rather than pointing fingers at others while we avoid examining ourselves.

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 to reserve space on the new color bulletin

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