



Saint Benedict the Moor Parish

Personal Parish for Black Catholics in Pittsburgh

"With God All Things Are Possible!"

MARCH 13, 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

Rev. Thomas J. Burke, Pastor:

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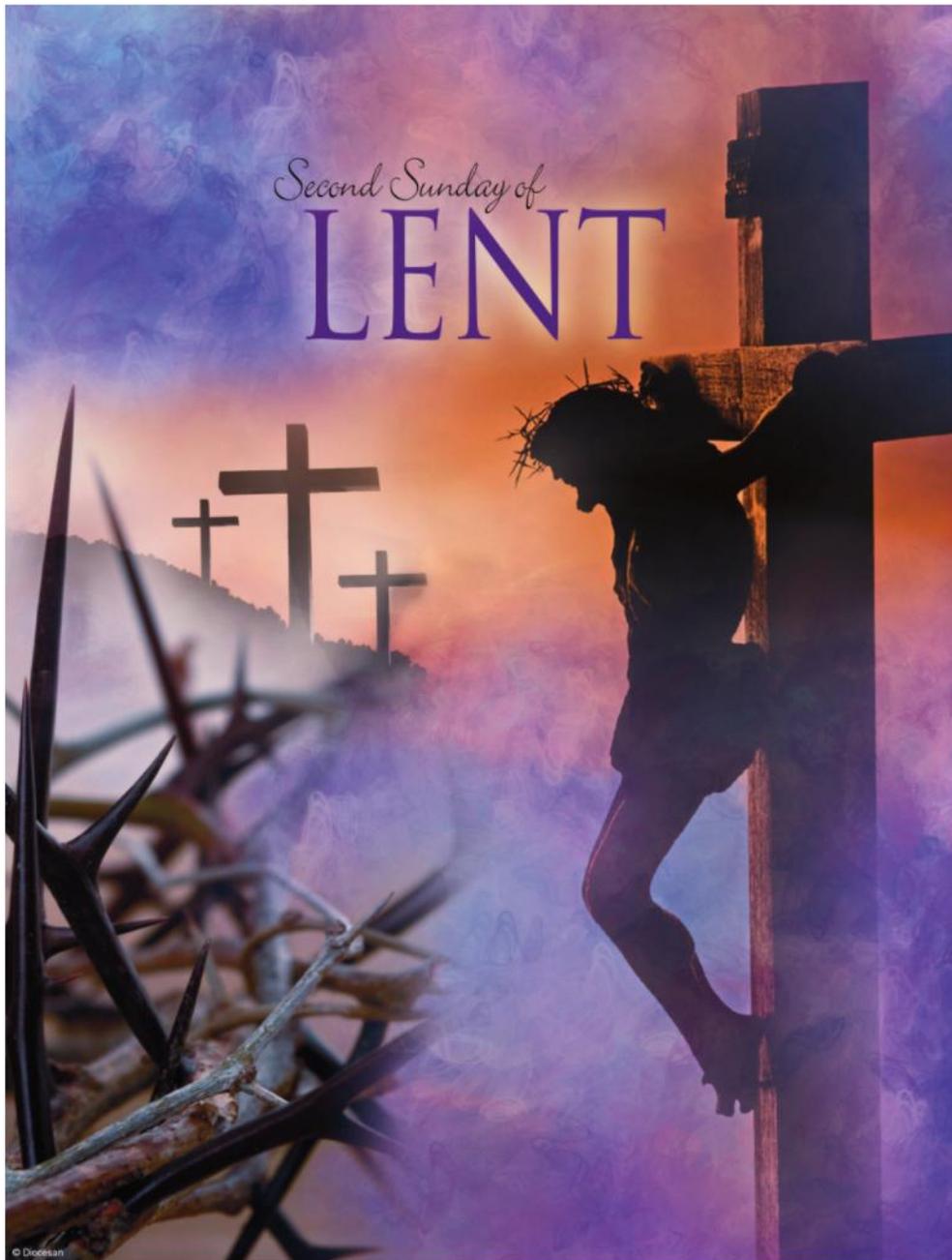
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[St. Benedict the Moor Parish-PGH](https://www.facebook.com/St.BenedicttheMoorParish-PGH)



[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
Robert Davis
Dolores Denton
Frederick Elliott
Fomunjeng Family
Lydia Francis
Marie Francis
Woody Frazier

James Fuller
Ann Fultz
Janet Glass
Brenda Glenn
Christina Hall
Vincent Hall Jr
Alda White Johnson
The Jackson Family
Sandra Johnson
Salima Kamadoli

Aisha Lado
Stella Lowden
Josephine O'Connor
Nicole Orlando
Mary Samuels
Genevieve Sanford
Janice Simmons
Jennifer Whitley
Rudolph Williams
Jenell Younger

Mass Intentions

March 13 11:00 am
Second Sunday of Lent

Fr. David Taylor

Vincent Tucker
(Margretta Stokes-Tucker)

March 20 11:00 am
Third Sunday of Lent

Fr. David Taylor

Alma Speed Fox
(Rob Tuchman)

Stewardship MARCH 6

| Offertory | PSP | Special Collections |
|------------|----------|---------------------|
| \$3,412.25 | \$870.00 | \$1,497.00 |

Birthdays

March 13th—March 19th

Grace Gbolo
Mark Mabika
Theresa Orlando
Brennan Osunkwo
Lydia Francis
Deonna Dykes

Happy Birthday!!



Scholarships

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS & Parents: The North Hills Ebony Women, Inc. (NHEW) is announcing their Annual scholarships for Black students attending PPS and North Hills Area High Schools (including state cyber and online schools in these districts), graduating in 2022 and moving on to College/University. Please visit the website: www.nhew1979.com, for specific requirements; or inquire from SBTM parishioners Janice Simmons or Theresa Orlando, for further information. Deadline for applications and all supporting documents, is April 1, 2022. [May be submitted online]. Additionally, a scholarship will be awarded a current qualified LaRoche University student. Deadline for application and supporting documents is April 1, 2022.



St. Benedict the Moor Parish Youth Mass

We invite you to come celebrate with us in our Youth Mass. This Mass will be led by St. Benedict the Moor's confirmation candidates.

Our Youth Mass will take place at:

St. Benedict the Moor Church
Sunday, March 27, 2022
11:00am Mass
All are welcome to attend!

What is CALIX?

CALIX is an association of Catholic alcoholics, drug addicts, and family members and friends affected by addiction who are maintaining their sobriety through participation in their Catholic faith and a 12-step program. Our first concern is to interest Catholics with these problems in the virtue of total abstinence. Our second stated purpose is to promote the spiritual development of our membership. CALIX Pittsburgh will begin face-to-face meetings on the second Sunday of every month at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 2599, Freeport Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238. You are invited to join us for a Holy Hour, Adoration and Benediction from 1:30-2:30 pm on Sunday, March 13, followed by a CALIX meeting from 2:30-3:30 pm. Please come and join us as we support each other by growing in spiritual maturity and frequent participation in celebrating Mass and penance and growing in prayer. And as it says in Step 12, "to practice these principles in all of our affairs."

Remember, everyone is welcome to come to CALIX.



Pastor's Note

Let's Eliminate Negative Thinking

During the season of Lent some people make goals and resolutions to make some changes in their lives. Maybe a change to eat healthier, or a change in our prayer routine to attend daily mass or eucharistic adoration or reconciliation. Making positive changes in life can be good for us to be a better person. This weekend we celebrate the Second Sunday of Lent, and the readings focus on change.

In the First Reading from the Book of Genesis, we read how the Lord makes a covenant with Abram to be the father of many people which was the foundation of God's relationship with the people of Israel. Through Christ we are heirs to this covenant. We must be open to God's plan for us at every moment of our lives.

In the Second Reading to the Philippians, we read how Paul reminds us that we are servants of God and citizens of heaven and seek our identity and destination in Christ.

In the Gospel of Luke, we read the "transfiguration" as Jesus goes up to Mount Tabor with James and John and is physically changed. Luke is often referred to as the Gospel of Prayer because almost every important aspect of Jesus' ministry is preceded by prayer in Luke's gospel. It is during prayer that Jesus' face changes and his clothes

become dazzling white. Transfiguration means a complete change of appearance into a more beautiful or spiritual state. Let us ask our Lord to help us engage and activate our spiritual senses so that we can navigate this world with our eyes fixed on Jesus. At the Transfiguration God reveals to us his hidden mystery through the events around us.

Prayer changes things, just as a cloud came over Peter, James, and John, and Jesus as they prayed together on the mountain top, so too does God overcome us at times when we pray.

Lent purifies our lives and allows us to listen to Jesus in preparation to be transformed by the power of God's love in Easter. Lent gives us the chance to awake from the spiritual slumber and recognize God's presence in our lives and how we can be transformed into the saints we are called to become. Let us be like Jesus, a model of simplicity and generosity.

Let us pray for the people of Ukraine and for peace in Eastern Europe.

Looking Ahead

Youth Mass

St. Benedict the Moor Parish will have our Youth participate in the Sunday masses every fourth Sunday of the month. Our students will be ushers/greeters, lectors, servers, and sing in the choir. We are very excited to launch our first Youth Mass in two weeks, on **Sunday, March 27!**

- **Pastoral Council Meeting, Sunday, March 27 after the 11am mass.**
- **Pastoral/Finance Council Retreat, Saturday, April 9th with John Flaherty.**

Confirmation 2022

The Sacrament of Confirmation for our eight candidates will be held on **Sunday, October 16, 2022, with Auxiliary Bishop William J. Waltersheid.**

Parish Share

The Annual Parish Share 2022 Campaign has begun. **Our goal is \$30,000.** Every registered parishioner should have received a Parish Share Information packet and pledge card in the mail. Please complete the pledge card either paid in full or with a pledge payable to "St. Benedict the Moor Parish" and memo the check "Parish Share" and return it in the parish envelope that was provided. Extra envelopes and information packets are available in the back of the church.

No funds collected via the program go towards lawsuits or legal affairs, rather they support the day-to-day operations at the Pastoral Center and Seminary in Green Tree, the Hospital Chaplaincy programs in our area hospitals and nursing homes, tuition scholarships and grants for our Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools, and the Campus Ministry programs at our local colleges and universities.

St. Benedict the Moor Parish also is assessed an "Elementary School Grant Fee" of \$1,278.00 a month (total \$15,341 yearly) that we pay to our Diocesan schools. Please participate in our Parish Share Campaign so that we reach our goal. We all benefit from Parish Share.

Help Wanted

We are in need of volunteer to maintain our Parish website and Facebook Page. If you are interested, please give me a call, or email me to discuss.

Something to Think About...

*Do not face the day until
you have faced God.*

With God, All Things Are Possible!

**Fr. Tom Burke
Pastor**

tburke@diopitt.org

Fr. David Taylor

Over the past several weeks, the Gospels have presented Jesus teaching in special surroundings. Luke has Jesus delivering his Sermon on the Plain. In last week's

Gospel the temptation story evolves on a high level or mountain. Today's Transfiguration Gospel takes place on Mount Tabor. The death of Jesus will occur on Mount Calvary. In these and many other instances the location and geography take on special meaning. The surroundings become the sacred places where Jesus communicates with his people.

In today's Gospel Jesus goes up the mountain with Peter, James, and John. The purpose is to spend time in prayer. They are on the journey to Jerusalem. It is a difficult journey, and the disciples are reluctant to continue. It is here that the disciples get renewed energy and faith to not give up. Jesus appears with Moses and Elijah, two men of great faith in the Old Testament. This also shows the connection between the disciples and the faith tradition they are called to uphold. The disciples are encouraged by this diversion and would like to remain. Great moments of faith are meant to give us strength to continue the journey. They had to go back to the valley where there is often suffering, pain, and death.

Each Sunday we are invited to the Eucharistic banquet. This is where we get our spiritual strength for the journey ahead. We too can experience these great moments of faith and hope. We likewise will experience crosses along the way, but the Promised Land is always in sight. Dr. Martin Luther King was well aware of this when he spoke of the mountaintop experience. While we have our own journeys, we must not ever be indifferent to the larger struggles of humankind. This Lent must find us in solidarity with our neighbors in the midst of war and oppression. We are never on an island by ourselves. This Lent gives us much to think and pray about.

Fr. Matthew Hawkins

The most important thing that is coming out of the synodal process is to change the way we live and work

together as a parish community of faith and as a church. This is what Pope Francis had in mind when he initiated this process. It is a continuation of the fulfillment of the theology of the Second Vatican Council, 60 years ago. It is the implementation of Canon Law, the law of the Catholic Church. The synodal process is one in which we learn how to listen to one another. Clergy must learn how to listen to the laity, Catechists must learn how to listen to their students, and all members of the Body of Christ must learn how to listen to one another. Nobody in the Church is above learning from the "other."

This does not necessarily mean that the synodal process will result in changes in church teaching or in canon law. It means that we will learn how to walk together in our journey of faith. We will have a better understanding of the particular burdens that each of us must carry along that journey, and we will be more responsive to various strengths and needs that members of our body bring with them on that journey. Our parish consists of people from different cultural backgrounds and who are in different stages of life. Our family situations and interpersonal relationships are increasingly complicated. Our attempts to harmonize our family and work lives and participation in the life of our communities and our parish is not as easy as it was 60 years ago. We must learn from one another about these things. We must be prepared to help one another with these challenges rather than judging

and criticizing one another from a distance. This is the meaning of Synodality.

Stories must drive the synodal process if it is to be successful. Anyone can stand on a soapbox and offer their opinion about all that is wrong or right in the church and in the world. We all have opinions. We gain little by repeating those opinions over and over again. The people on whom we afflict those opinions learn little about us and little about themselves. If we really want to understand each other, if we want other people to understand us, and if we want to understand ourselves better than we do now, we must be prepared to share our stories. People who facilitate conversations in the synodal process should begin by saying, "Tell me about a time when..." and "Tell me about an experience you had with..." After we share our stories with one another, we should discuss them together; we should interpret them together. We should use our stories to open further conversation.

The synodal process does not end with a document that is submitted to the diocese at the end of March. It does not end when the Bishops meet during the synod on Synodality in October of 2023. As Pope Francis has said repeatedly, this is only the beginning. Synodality is a change in the way we relate to one another as a parish and a church. Priests, the laity, parish staff, and members of religious orders must all learn how to be better listeners. Nobody within the Body of Christ is above this.

ST. BENEDICT THE MOOR PARISH WANTS YOUR HELP!

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