



Saint Benedict the Moor Parish

Personal Parish for Black Catholics in Pittsburgh

"With God All Things Are Possible!"

MAY 1, 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:

tburke@diopitt.org

Rev. David H. Taylor,

Senior Parochial Vicar:

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Parochial Vicar:

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Priscilla Davis, Office Manager:

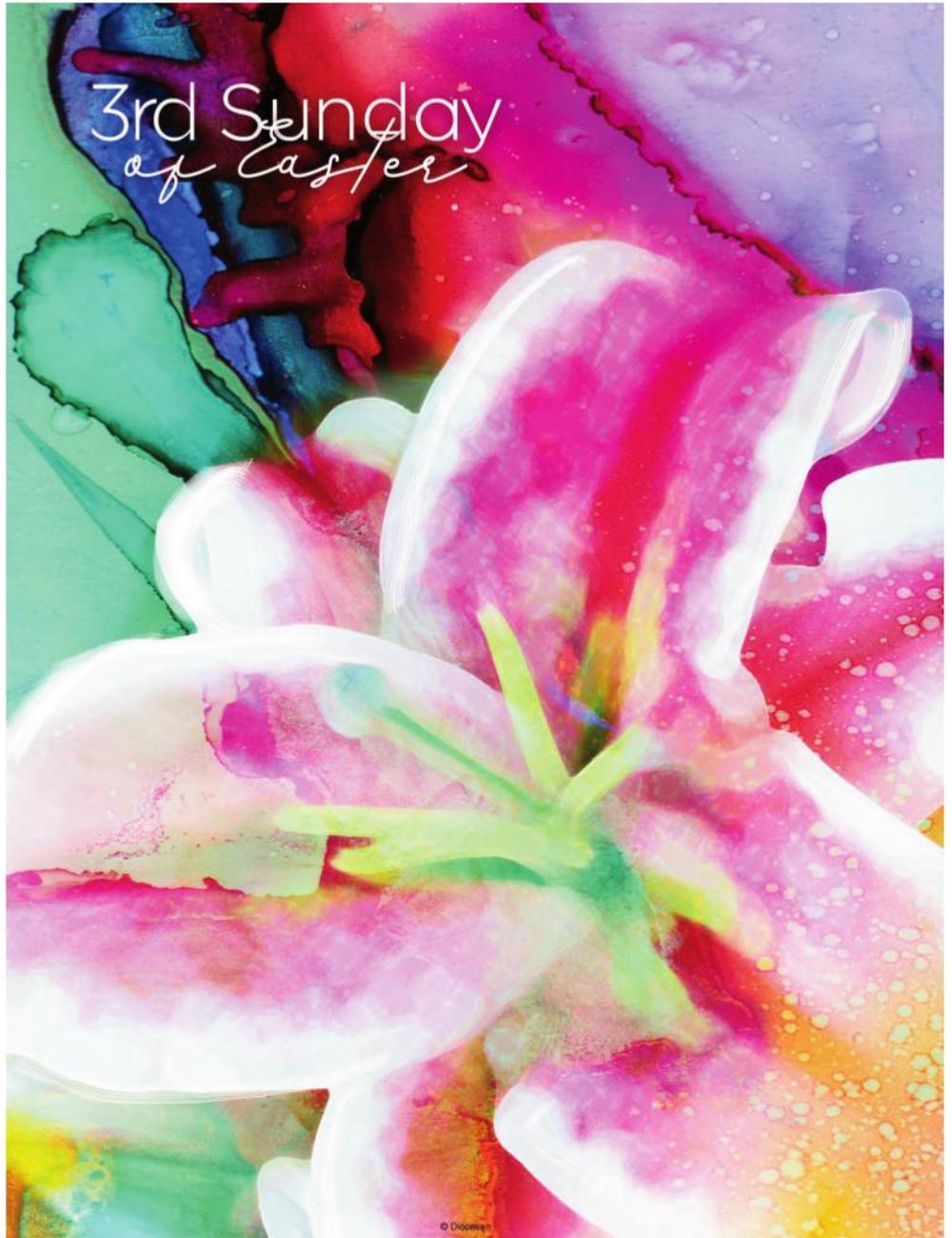
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Website:
sbtmparishpgh.com



St. Benedict the Moor Parish-PGH



SBTMPARISHPGH



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
Marqus Clancy
Kristen Ashley-Cooper
Rita Costa
Dorothy Dansby
Edward Davis
Gloria Davis
Robert Davis

Dolores Denton
Frederick Elliott
Fomunjeng Family
Lydia Francis
Marie Francis
Woody Frazier
Sarah Freker
James Fuller
Ann Fultz
Janet Glass

Brenda Glenn
Christina Hall
Vincent Hall Sr
Vincent Hall Jr
Alda White Johnson
The Jackson Family
Sandra Johnson
Salima Kamadoli
Stella Lowden
Josephine O'Connor

Nicole Orlando
Mary Samuels
Genevieve Sanford
Janice Simmons
Jennifer Whitley
Rudolph Williams
Jenell Younger

Mass Intentions

May 1 11:00 am
3rd Sunday of Easter

Fr. David Taylor
Jack Arthur Forte
(Priscilla Davis)

May 8 11:00 am
4th Sunday of Easter

Fr. David Taylor
(All Living and Deceased Mothers)

Stewardship APRIL 17

Offertory	PSP	Special Collections
\$2,388.00	\$780.00	\$1,477.00

Stewardship APRIL 24

Offertory	PSP	Special Collections
\$3,410.00	\$590.00	\$315.00

Congratulations to Father David Taylor on the 48th Anniversary of His Ordination

(May 4, 1974)

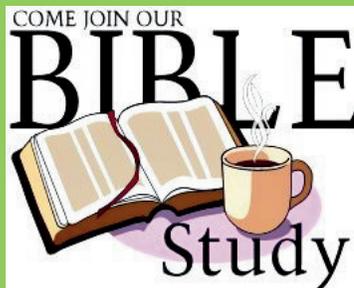
**We Thank Him for His Service and Ask God
to Bless Him Always!**



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

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



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

Please Keep Our Children in Prayer as They Prepare for First Communion (May 15)

Mia Nshimyumukiza
Ella Nshimyumukiza
Ava Nshimyumukiza
Grace Gbolo
Jaden Betters

Chosen:
A Retreat for Moms
At The Ark and The Dove
May 7th, 2022



Registration \$75
www.thearkandthedoveworldwide.org/moms



Pastor's Note

Follow Me!

Today is the Third Sunday of Easter. All the readings this weekend focus on discipleship and proclaiming the Good News.

In the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, we read how the Apostles boldly profess their commitment to serving the kingdom of heaven. Even despite the Sanhedrin to curtail the proclamation of the gospel, the Apostles are not all dispirited by any of this. They are even joyful that they have the opportunity to suffer for the great privilege of preaching the word of the Lord.

In the Second Reading from the Book of Revelation, we read how God's servants in heaven and on earth sing hymns of praise and glory to God and to the lamb, for the gift of salvation.

In the Gospel of John, we read Chapter twenty-one which is considered to be an appendix to the original manuscript. After the crucifixion, Peter and some of his disciples go back to fishing, which is what they know best. Jesus appears to his disciples at the Sea of Tiberius as they fail to attempt to catch fish. Jesus tells them to cast their nets, which they do and find success, followed by a shared breakfast of bread and fish. It represents the third and final time that Jesus appears to his disciples after his resurrection.

The Risen Lord reminds the disciples of their calling as "fishers of men" and reaffirms Peter's role as a shepherd of the church. Peter denies knowing the Lord three times out of fear during the crucifixion, now three times he confesses his love for Jesus. Peter commits himself to be the shepherd.

As we continue celebrating this Easter season, let us open our hearts to see how we can spread the good news and follow the Lord. We all have gifts and talents, and all can come and follow the Lord.

First Reconciliation/ Holy Communion

We congratulate our Second Graders on receiving the Sacrament of First Reconciliation, this past Saturday during their day of retreat, and continue to pray for them as they prepare for their First Holy Communion on **Sunday, May 15 at the 11am mass**. Special thanks to **Julie Mondello and Lisa Joy Finch** for their leadership in preparing our children.

Pastoral and Finance Council & Parish Leadership Retreat

On Saturday, April 9 leaders of our parish attended a Parish Retreat conducted by John Flaherty. It was a very spiritual, enriching day as the leaders discussed and prayed about the future of our parish as we move forward setting out hopes and dreams and goals. In the next several weeks and months a core group of the leadership team will be convening to start discussing goals and objectives and a Pastoral Plan and Mission Statement. We will also be asking members to the parish to offer input and involvement. Stay tuned!

Parish Share 2022

The Annual Parish Share 2022 Campaign has begun. **Our goal is \$30,000**. 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.

Parish Improvements

Knowing that St. Benedict the Moor Church has several roof leaks and various issues, we are looking at contracting out with Florida Consulting to access our roof and make recommendations as to prioritize what repairs will be needed in the immediate future. All roofing contractors are experiencing labor shortages and heavy volumes of request for repairs. In the next few weeks Florida Consulting will be assessing our church building and will make their recommendations. We will keep you posted on the progress.

Our parish van, which is used by our Maintenance Department and Parish Food Bank, was recently inspected, and received updated brakes and tires. They were the original tires! It passed all safety inspections and emissions.

Are You Registered

Every Catholic needs a place to call "home." If you attend Mass on a regular basis and are not officially registered, you are welcomed here! Registration forms are available on the information table in the front of the church, or you can call Priscilla Davis at the office at 412- 281-3141.

Something to Think About...

What we do not understand and fear, may teach us that we are stronger than we thought. If we unite with others for a just cause, we can gain strength from each other.

- Sr. Janice McLaughlin , Maryknoll Sister

With God, All Things Are Possible!

Fr. Tom Burke

Pastor

tburke@diopitt.org

Fr. David Taylor



Many of the post-Resurrection appearances of Jesus are events that take place at, or involve, the planning of a meal. The last supper was a

profound event where Jesus showed the extent of his love, and he left this as a legacy. This was also the foundation of the Holy Eucharist. The wedding at Cana showed the importance of service to others. When Jesus Joined the disciples on the road to Emmaus, he later joined them at a meal. In today's Gospel he prepares breakfast for his followers.

Peter realized the significance of this service in how he would lead the Church on behalf of Christ. Peter's reckoning was essential for all who would lead a servant church. We will continue throughout the Easter season, in the Acts of the Apostles, to see how this formed a Church of service. This is the church we lead today.

This Wednesday, May 4th, is my 48th anniversary of ordination. These years have been immensely blessed. I truly thank all of you for helping me to be the servant leader I promised to be at ordination.

There continues to be a lot of support for the six African American and African candidates on their way to sainthood. The two I am most familiar with are Sister Thea Bowman and Fr. Augustus Tolton. I knew Sr. Thea when I was both a seminarian, and a priest. She promoted vocations and a love of the Church, despite the racism and bigotry she experienced in religious life. I was so grateful for the naming of Sister Thea Bowman Catholic Academy after her. It was a privilege to promote this. Let us continue to pray for this effort.

Fr. Matthew Hawkins



What do recent studies of Black Catholic parishes in the United States offer to St. Benedict the Moor and those

involved in ministry to Black Catholics in the Diocese of Pittsburgh?

In 2017 Darren W. Davis and Donald P. Pope-Davis completed an extensive empirical study of Black Catholics which was published under the title: *Perseverance in the Parish? Religious Attitudes from a Black Catholic Perspective*. Their study had a number of surprises, but it also emphasized a few key points.

Black Catholics, the study says, who are most likely to remain in the Catholic Church, either attend predominantly Black parishes or participate in parish ministries and other activities that enable them to be socially-connected. The study notes, however, that most Black Catholics today do not attend predominantly Black parishes, and this is often a barrier to their social and spiritual needs being met. It leads a "sizable minority" to struggle with their Catholic faith.

Although the study emphasizes that most Black Catholics are not "aggrieved, disaffected, and prepared to abandon their Catholic faith," it is important to them that the Church should be a place where their culture and heritage, which is downplayed in other institutions in American society, plays a prominent role in their worship. African Americans want to pass on a healthy awareness of their culture and heritage to their children because this will be essential for their children's healthy growth and survival.

The authors noted that it was important to many Black Catholics that they attend parishes that reflected "African American cultural expressions, such as gospel music and hymns, vestments, preaching style, and African American symbols and images in the liturgy."

The study showed that "social connectedness and immersion" in the parish are important buffers against racial intolerance that many African Americans perceive in the Catholic Church. The authors wrote that socially-connected Black Catholics have more meaningful religious experiences than people who are socially isolated," adding that "Social connectedness enriches one's faithfulness and attachment to the community." For more on the importance of Black Catholic participation in diocesan and parish affairs please see my reflection on "Sister Bowman's Three Points for Ministry to Black Catholics" in last week's bulletin. It is posted online.

The study explored many nuances of the lives of Black Catholics, demonstrating the value of empirical research such as this one, along with culture studies such as those that C. Vanessa White conducted (please see my reflection in the March 27th bulletin online) for parish pastoral planning.

While Davis and Davis' study offered hope for ministry to Black Catholics, the study also offered ominous warnings. "Unfortunately," the authors noted, "the African American Catholic parish [today] is threatened by the loss of resources, an aging population, and church closings." For those who care about the future of African Americans in the Catholic Church, there is no room for complacency.

ST. BENEDICT THE MOOR PARISH WANTS YOUR HELP!

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Contact Michael Freker @ mfreker@diopitt.org or call 412-456-3055



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