



Saint Benedict the Moor Parish

Personal Parish for Black Catholics in Pittsburgh

"With God All Things Are Possible!"

MAY 8, 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:

dtaylor@diopitt.org

Rev. C. Matthew Hawkins,

Parochial Vicar:

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Rev. Mr. Brendon J. Harfmann

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Christopher Catone, Music Director:

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Priscilla Davis, Office Manager:

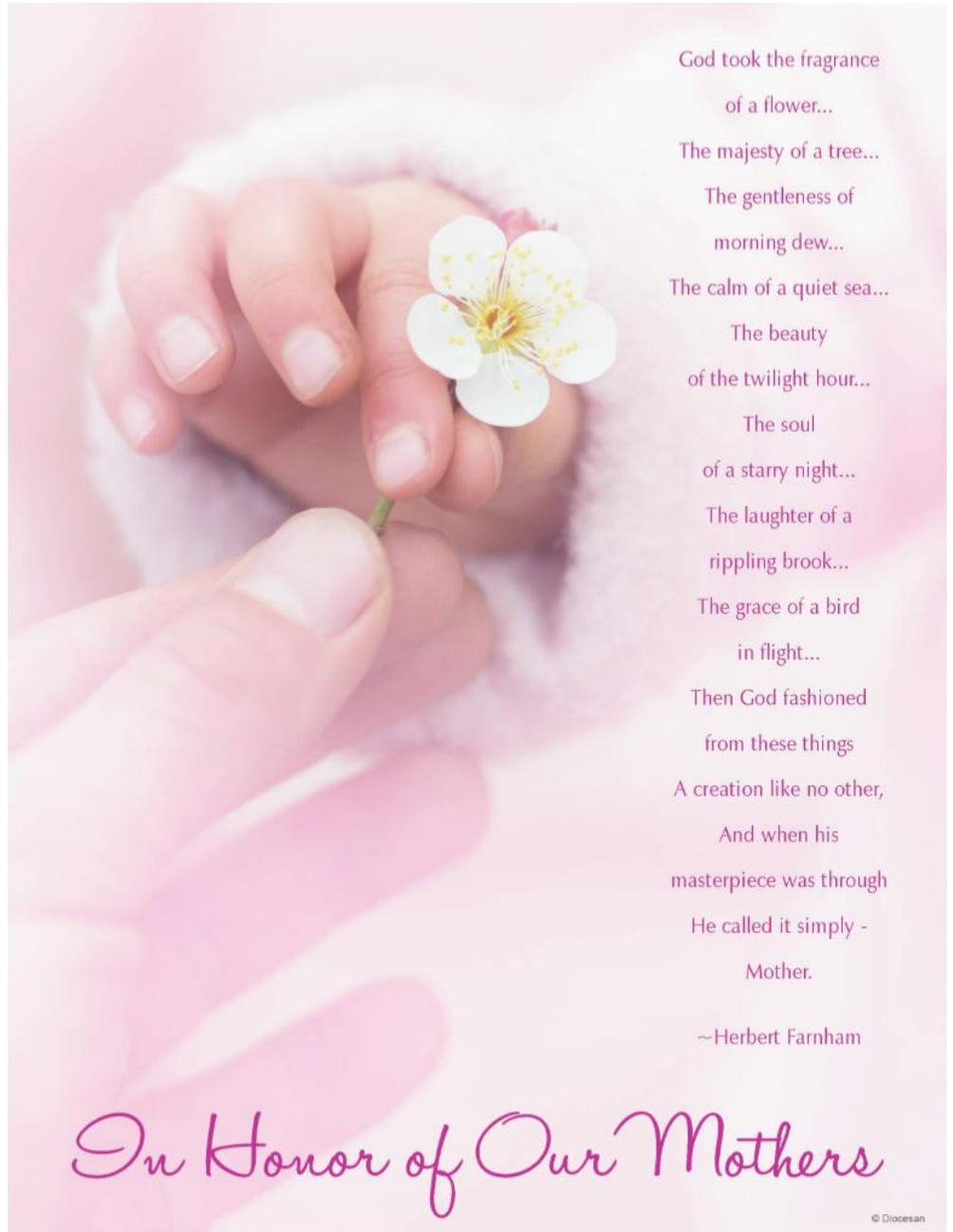
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God took the fragrance
of a flower...
The majesty of a tree...
The gentleness of
morning dew...
The calm of a quiet sea...
The beauty
of the twilight hour...
The soul
of a starry night...
The laughter of a
rippling brook...
The grace of a bird
in flight...
Then God fashioned
from these things
A creation like no other,
And when his
masterpiece was through
He called it simply -
Mother.

~Herbert Farnham

In Honor of Our Mothers

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Saint Benedict the Moor Church • 91 Crawford Street • Pittsburgh PA 15219

office@sbtmparishpgh.com • 412.281.3141

Website:
sbtmparishpgh.com



St. Benedict the Moor Parish-PGH



SBTMPARISHPGH



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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
Joan Moran

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

Mass Intentions

May 8 11:00 am
4th Sunday of Easter

Fr. Thomas Burke
All Living and Deceased Mothers

May 15 11:00 am
5th Sunday of Easter

Fr. Matthew Hawkins
First Communicants
(Julie Mondello)

Stewardship MAY 1

Offertory	PSP	Special Collections
\$2,267.00	\$175.00	\$225.00

Birthdays

May 8th—May 14th

**ROBERT DAVIS
ELLA NSHIMYUMUKIZA
MIA NSHIMYIMUKIZA
GEORGE SMITH
ZARA MUNSANG
EMY TAKADA**

Happy Birthday!!



Looking for Youth Ministry Team Volunteers

Responsibilities:

- ◇ Continue Religious Education opportunities for our Youth.
- ◇ Capable of reaching out to people by various means including social media.
- ◇ Coordinate programs and services, i.e. small group bible studies, retreats, social gatherings, World Youth Days, attendance at Diocesan youth events, etc.
- ◇ Willingness to acquire and continue training.

Qualifications:

- ◇ Roman Catholic in good standing.
- ◇ Fully compliant with Diocesan policies and clearances.
- ◇ Strong faith and prayer life with a willingness to share with others.
- ◇ At least 21 years of age.

Take it to prayer.

If you find the Lord calling you to this important ministry, don't hesitate to say yes!

Contact Lisa Joy Finch at 412-760-2423 (call or text) or religiouseducation@sbtmparishpgh.com





Pastor's Note

Jesus is the Good Shepherd!

For the past twenty-one years, God has blessed me with great parish assignments in my Priesthood ministry. From 2008 to 2012, I was Pastor of Good Shepherd Parish in Braddock which was one of the first merged parishes in the Diocese of Pittsburgh established in 1985. My four years at Good Shepherd (which is now part of St. Joseph the Worker Parish serving the communities of Braddock, North Braddock, East Pittsburgh, Forest Hills, Swissvale, Turtle Creek, and Wilmerding) was a wonderful experience seeing how seven former ethnic parishes could come together to be one family. I love being a priest and love my Catholic faith. Every day I try to do my best to be a good priest and shepherd the people that I am entrusted with.

This weekend we celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Easter, also called "Good Shepherd Sunday" and we also celebrate Mother's Day! In the First Reading from the Acts of the Apostles, we read how Paul and Barnabas declare that the gospel must be preached to the gentiles, as they continue their first missionary journey going to Perga and Antioch to preach in the synagogue. Paul and Barnabas preach to the Jewish people and the Gentiles. They respect that the Jewish people are God's chosen people who must first hear the Gospel. But they also assert that the Gentiles

likewise be invited to eternal life. The Gentiles in the congregation are thrilled to hear this.

In the Second Reading from the Book of Revelation, we read how God's faithful people sing praise before the heavenly throne. John sees a countless number of people standing before God. They remain loyal to the lamb in the face of all distress. The Good Shepherd looks after them, comforts them, and leads them to the springs of water.

Traditionally the Fourth Sunday of Easter is called "Good Shepherd Sunday" because the gospel is always from John Chapter 10. John focuses on Jesus as the Good Shepherd using the metaphor of sheep and shepherd to express how he and the Father are one.

Shepherds protect and care for the sheep they watch over. They make sure the sheep are fed and have enough water, and that they are safe from wolves and other animals that want to harm them. In the same way, Jesus cares for us too. Sometimes we wander off on the wrong path or put God out of our life, and take some wrong turns in life. Jesus says he will lay down his life for his sheep. He will give everything that he has to guarantee their safety and salvation.

All of us have circles of people in our lives we can be Good Shepherds to. Our baptismal promises call the youngest to the oldest among us to walk always as children of light, leading others to come to know Jesus and the Good News he shares. For many lay people, parenting is the main place. But any act of teaching or protection, forgiveness, or guidance is part of the shepherding mission of the church.

Mother's Day is always a special day to honor all the women in our lives who hold a motherly role: Mothers, Grandmothers, Godmothers, Mother-in-Laws, and Aunts. It is a special day to say

thank you for all they have done for us. I thank God every day for my mom, Marge, who after all these years still does so much for her three children, seven grandchildren, and one granddaughter. Thanks Mom, for giving me life, teaching me the faith, and encouraging and supporting me throughout my fifty years of my life. Life...what a beautiful choice!

First Holy Communion

First Holy Communion will be held next **Sunday, May 15 at the 11am mass.** Special thanks to **Julie Mondello and Lisa Joy Finch** for their leadership in preparing our children.

Farewell Frank Grande

Frank Grande, our Business Manager, will be completing his work at St. Benedict the Moor Parish, effective Friday, May 13 to spend more time with his family. We thank Frank for his service to us the past two years.

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...

"Everyday is Mother's Day."

- Marge Burke

With God, All Things Are Possible!

Fr. Tom Burke

Pastor

tburke@diopitt.org

Fr. David Taylor



Virtually every good and worthwhile occurrence in life comes with sacrifice and commitment. The events between Good Friday and Easter Sunday

consistently remind us of this. In light of this reality the theme of the Good Shepherd shows the extent of care and concern that must accompany our daily actions. A Shepherd's care involves not only what we do, but just as important how and why we carry out these responsibilities.

A faithful Shepherd must always be willing to accept the role of the flock as well. A spiritual leader must be willing to be both a leader and a follower. The most difficult tasks in life can be accomplished if done with love, care, and compassion, and the real Shepherd leader must come to terms with his or her own personal weaknesses.

Jesus taught by the way he lived, and he invites us to do the same. He assures us of a life safe and secure, but not shielded from the sufferings of daily living. The Synodal process continues to show us how we carry out these ministry roles in our daily living. This will also guide us as we plan for the future.

As we come near the end of the school year, we are grateful and thankful for the ministry of Catholic education. I have been blessed to share in the ministry of St. Bede, St. Benedict the Moor, and Sister Thea Bowman Catholic Academy schools. There have been many challenges, but our schools continue to be a blessing for all of us.

Our C.C.D and faith formation programs continue to enrich all our parish programs. This is how we evangelize and spread the faith. We owe much gratitude to all of our faithful teachers and staff.

Fr. Matthew Hawkins



Do Catholic social teachings and Catholic theology have anything of value to say to African Americans who are not Catholic? Last month at the Sister Thea

Bowman Foundation, I introduced the exciting challenge of exploring the relationship between Catholic theology and African American literature. In other words, how can we understand the lives of African Americans through the literature we produced, and how can Catholic theology help us appreciate Black literature on a deeper, theological level?

In James V. Schall's classic work, *The Mind That Is Catholic* (2008), he argues that one of the central themes of the Catholic mind is that we humans constantly face choices in our lives. Schall wrote that our lives are "a retelling of [the] same story, the story of what we choose, the story of whether we ultimately choose what is or ourselves to be the central event in our existence." In other words, do we find meaning in life by centering our focus on God and what God reveals to us about the reality of the human experience, or do we try to take the place of God and create our meaning in life? We have a choice: either search for Truth that is greater than we are or try to invent our own personal "truth" that will eventually let us down.

Ralph Ellison's posthumously published novel *Juneteenth* (1999) is a kaleidoscope of African American sermons, signifying, and parables. It swirls around the central plot of how an African American boy named "Bliss" passed for white as Adam Sunraider, a notoriously racist senator from New England. The main theme in the novel is that we humans cannot experience the spirit without the flesh, and we cannot fully experience the flesh without the spirit. The discerning Catholic reader will recognize how this fictional work is a literary expression of St. John Paul II's *Theology of the Body* (2006) and vice versa, even though it is doubtful that the two men ever read each other's work.

I recommend listening to the audiobook version of Ellison's *Juneteenth* which is available from Audible. The performances by Charles Johnson and Joe Morton bring this story to life in a way that cannot be

matched by merely reading the words on a page.

Wynton Marsalis' two-and-a-half-hour jazz oratorio *Blood on the Fields* (1999) is another example of storytelling that has profound underlying theological implications. The story traces the struggle of Jesse, an enslaved man who exploited other Blacks when he was in Africa, to discover his humanity in an alien land. The path to Jesse's humanity is counterintuitive, so he rejects it at first. However, Jesse eventually learns that the enslavement he suffers is an enslavement of the body and the enslavement of the spirit. Unless he can liberate himself from this second form of enslavement, he learns, he will never be free.

Cole Arthur Riley's *This Here Flesh: Spirituality, Liberation, and the Stories that Make Us* (2022) is a non-fiction collection of African American stories. She grew up in Pittsburgh, and her stories invite the reader to meditate on what Flannery O'Connor described as grace breaking through the depravity, deformity, and madness of everyday life. Riley's stories reflect themes that arise in our lives, including our fears, memories, need for rest, and our bodies.

To be Catholic means fully experiencing life. While our spirituality and faith are universal, we experience them in local cultures and communities. Catechists will effectively transmit this faith when we learn to share it through stories that capture the richness and diversity of life within our communities.



Bible Study with Fr. Matthew Hawkins
Thursdays at 7 pm on Zoom
For more information, contact Fr. Matthew at 412.661.7222 or

ST. BENEDICT THE MOOR PARISH WANTS YOUR HELP!

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