



Saint Benedict the Moor Parish

Personal Parish for Black Catholics in Pittsburgh

"With God All Things Are Possible!"

MAY 15, 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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Rev. David H. Taylor,

Senior Parochial Vicar:

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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
Joan Moran

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

Mass Intentions

May 15 11:00 am
5th Sunday of Easter

Fr. Matthew Hawkins
First Communicants
(Julie Mondello)

May 22 11:00 am
6th Sunday of Easter

Fr. Matthew Hawkins
Matthew Kee Kee Patterson
(Mr & Mrs. Keith Younger)

Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP) Mother Teresa Conference

April blessed our Conference with new Friends In Need and the resources to assist with a lift chair, rent / security deposit assistance (several times over!), burial expense and referrals to governmental and non-profit organizations, such as The Blessing Board & LIHEAP. Building connections in our community as well as friendships on Conference is the way of Vincentian volunteering.

We are always open to new members! To learn more about our service to parishioners and all those souls in the Parish territory, please join us Monday, May 16 at 6pm via zoom at <https://pitt.zoom.us/j/95801807202>, Meeting ID: 958 0180 7202, Passcode: 594968 OR in person at St. Benedict the Moor Church (enter via the Crawford Street porch). As always, if you know of a parishioner or neighbor in our Parish territory in need or if you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution to support our work, please leave a message at 412-204-7446 or by email at SVdPStTeresaPgh@gmail.com.



This week
the Sanctuary Candle
is lit in Celebration of the
56th Wedding Anniversary
of
Moses & Janice Simmons



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 next show will be next Sunday, May 22nd.

A link to the podcasts of the program is on KDKA:
kdkaradio.radio.com/media/podcast/catholic-education-plus

Stewardship MAY 8

Offertory	PSP	Special Collections
\$4,069.00	\$500.00	\$795.00



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

Calling all 2022 Graduates!

High School, College 2-year, 4-year, Master's, Doctorate and Technical Schools. St. Benedict the Moor would like to **celebrate and honor** you. Please call Priscilla Davis 412-281-3141 X100, and provide your name, type of degree and the school you graduated from. Remember to register by Monday, June 6th.



Christian Mothers Women's Day Ceremony

On Sunday May 22, the women of the parish and all women attending the 11am Mass at St. Benedict are invited to wear white in celebration of our Women's Day ceremony.



Pastor's Note

Love One Another!

This weekend we celebrate the Fifth Sunday of Easter. The readings focus on keeping the faith even in difficult situations. In the First Reading from the Acts of the Apostles, we read how Paul and Barnabas rejoice that God opened the door of faith to the Gentiles. This reading includes the last stages of the first missionary journey of them. Despite the hardships, the Apostles are not discouraged. This ends Paul's first mission trip to the Gentiles, which has already born fruit by spreading the gospel throughout the Mediterranean world. In the Second Reading from Revelation, we read how John sees a new and holy Jerusalem coming down from heaven. The heavenly Jerusalem represents God's people.

In the Gospel of John, we read the introduction of John's "farewell discourse." The setting is the "Last Supper." Jesus has just washed the feet of his disciples. The love of Jesus for us is precisely what makes it possible to love like him; in turn he loves us first, and his love changes us. The farewell discourse is to prepare the disciples for Jesus' departure from this earth when they will have to take over his work. This passage stresses that Jesus, the Son of Man, is glorified and God is glorified in him. The word "glorify" is mentioned five times by Jesus in this particular passage. Glorify implies the presence of God in Jesus which has become visible

to the world.

Jesus also gives a final instruction to his disciples, to love one another as Jesus has loved them. As he prepares to return to the Father, Jesus invites us into a loving relationship with God and with one another. In our increasingly alienated world, we are asked to open our hearts in the love and joy of Jesus Christ. We share the good news by the way we live.

By our love for one another, we help others in their lives. Let us put aside our differences and disagreements, and work towards creating a new path of peace, love, and harmony.

Is there someone in our life we are disconnected with? As we come to the near end of the Easter Season in a few weeks, let us reflect on the relationships in our lives and reach out to a loved one or friend or coworker that we are disconnected with.

First Holy Communion

This weekend is very special as we celebrate First Holy Communion for our Second Graders. Special thanks to **Julie Mondello and Lisa Joy Finch** for their leadership in preparing our children.

Parish Mission and Pastoral Planning

Last month, leaders from our parish attended a Parish Retreat conducted by John Flaherty. It was a nice spiritual, enriching day as leaders discussed and prayed about the future of our parish as we move forward setting out our hopes, dreams, and goals. In the next several 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 for members of the parish for input and involvement.

Farewell Frank Grande

Frank Grande, our Business Manager, has completed 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.

Welcome Donna Jeffrey

It gives me great pleasure to welcome **Donna Jeffrey** to the Pastoral Staff as Part Time Business Manager. Donna comes with over thirty years' experience working for the Federal Reserve Bank. She has a positive, friendly attitude and will be a great addition to our staff.

Looking Ahead

Ascension of our Lord (a Holy Day) is Thursday, May 26.

Masses will be held:

9am- St. Bede- Point Breeze

9am- St. James- Wilkinsburg

Noon- Mother of Good Counsel-
Homewood

6:30pm- St. Benedict the Moor Church

7pm- St. Bede- Point Breeze

2022 Mass Intentions

The 2022 Mass Intention book is open. We still have Sunday Masses available for Mass Intentions for a \$10.00 stipend, and Memorials for the Sanctuary Candle for a \$10 donation. Please contact Priscilla Davis at the Parish Office to schedule.

Something to Think About...

If you love God sincerely and above all, you will easily fulfill all other duties towards Him. Nothing is difficult, nothing tedious, to a loving heart.

- Venerable Frederic Baraga
Missionary Bishop

With God, All Things Are Possible!

Fr. Tom Burke

Pastor

tburke@diopitt.org

Fr. David Taylor



Occasionally I will see a sign which reads "love thy neighbor, no exceptions." I cannot help but think of the power of this statement; in the midst of suffering and

rejection, Jesus issues his new commandment. Love can be easy to speak of but most difficult to carry out in day-to-day living.

I knew a priest who by all appearances loved his assignment and the people he served. He was quite popular within the parish and the community. I had the occasion to meet with him and others in a different scenario, and I was both disappointed and surprised to learn of his disdain and unhappiness with the people and community he was sent to serve. He mentioned that he was anticipating and hoping to soon serve in another community with people more like his own.

None of us can like everyone but we must love without exception. This New Commandment does not come with an option as to who we may or may not want to serve. We who minister can easily see our mission as bringing our people up to our own standards and this can become a major obstacle to serving others. We must begin by seeing others at a common level rather than from above or below.

The foundation of the Early Church had to begin on common ground. This ability to use the goodness and talents of everyone would determine the success or failure of a missionary church. This is a challenge for all of us today. We have many unique opportunities of service within our diverse parish, and as the song goes there is *plenty good room* for all of us.

Fr. Matthew Hawkins



Tuesday, May 17th, is election day. Historically, the Christianity of African Americans rooted in social activism rested on

four legs: (1) strong families and community-based institutions and organizations, (2) the quest for economic empowerment through jobs and small business ownership, (3) the struggle for access to quality education, and (4) the battle to enforce voting rights. Despite previous enslavement, Black families were not significantly fragmented until the late 20th century and African Americans saw formal education as the road to "racial uplift" and liberation. In addition to the issues listed above, criminal justice reform and access to decent housing have been long-standing concerns in Black churches and communities.

To understand why Black Christians emphasized a social concern for justice see Esau McCaulley's book *Reading While Black: African American Biblical Interpretation as an Exercise of Hope*. McCaulley argues that the theology of Black clergy and biblical scholars is rooted in theological orthodoxy and orthopraxis. Black American Christians sought to understand the objective meaning of the Bible rather than invent an interpretation that they could impose on it: this is theological orthodoxy. Similarly, Black Christians sought to put the teachings of the Bible, including protecting the poor and the vulnerable, into social practice: this is orthopraxis.

Throughout most of American history, the laws treated Black Americans as less than human, which was how popular media and entertainment also portrayed them.

In response to this, Black Christians focused on promoting the dignity of the human person. They would demonstrate their humanity through academic achievement in schools, insisting on the right to vote, and the right to join the military. This week, African American churches continue the practice of encouraging members to vote for the sake of community empowerment and to resist negative stereotypes about the community.

Tragically, during the 20th century, many people were injured or killed in the effort for Black Americans to gain that right. Elders in the community today consider the exercise of voting rights as an affirmation of their personhood. For them, the right to vote is a theological matter, not because they have confidence in any of the political parties or candidates running for office but because in a democracy voting is more than an exercise of citizenship, it is an expression of one's humanity.

Similarly, next month Black Christians will honor graduates at all stages of schooling. The value they historically placed on education was about more than individual achievement; education was valued as a victory for the entire community over efforts to keep them down and hold them back. When churches in Black American communities celebrate graduates, they will be making a statement that runs counter to their image in mass media. In the African American theological tradition, schooling and voting rights have always been powerful expressions of the humanity often denied to Black Americans. This is why churches in Black communities go out of their way to promote voter turnout and academic achievement.

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. Our weekly bulletin is entirely supported by the sponsors that appear on the back pages.

Advertising on the weekly parish bulletin is a great return on your advertising dollar in that the expense is tax deductible and the ad will promote your cause throughout the community.



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



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