



Saint Benedict the Moor Parish

Personal Parish for Black Catholics in Pittsburgh

"With God All Things Are Possible!"

JULY 10, 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,

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Jeannette Finch, Sacristan

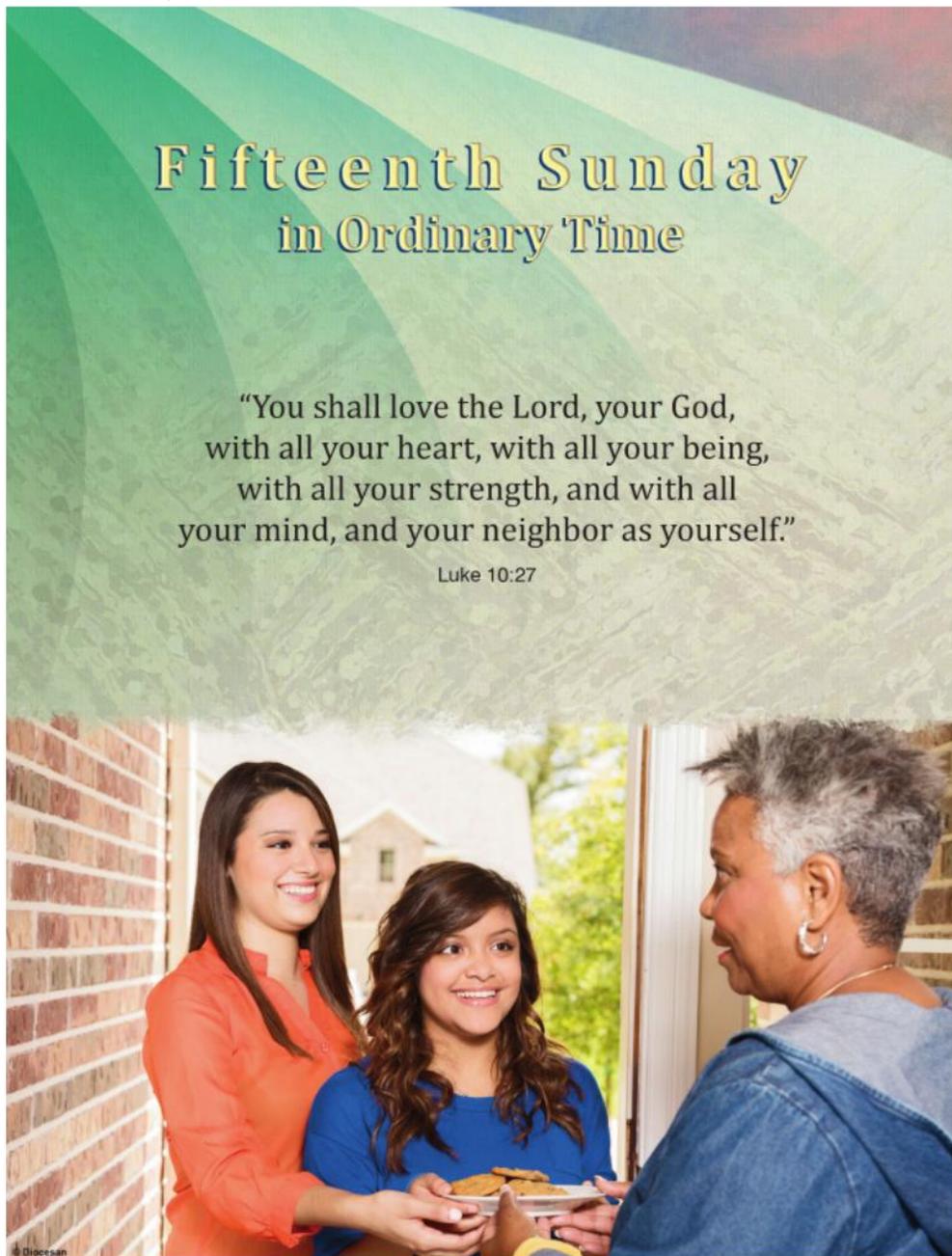
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Website:
sbtmparishpgh.com



St. Benedict the Moor Parish-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
Marqus Clancy
Kristen Ashley-Cooper
Rita Costa
Dorothy Dansby
Edward Davis
Gloria Davis
Robert Davis
Dolores Denton

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

Brenda Glenn
Christina Hall
Alda White Johnson
The Jackson Family
Sandra Johnson
Salima Kamadoli
Harold Lee
Stella Lowden
The Mary Family
Eric McDonald

Joan Moran
Josephine O'Connor
Nicole Orlando
Mary Samuels
Genevieve Sanford
Janice Simmons
Rudolph Williams
JJ Younger

Mass Intentions

July 10 11:00 am
15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Fr. Matthew Hawkins
Emmanuella Mulumba
(Chilufya Mulumba)

July 17 11:00 am
16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Bishop David A. Zubik
Tony Akins
(Cecily Akins)

Stewardship JULY 3

| Offertory | PSP | Special Collections |
|------------|----------|---------------------|
| \$3,152.00 | \$560.00 | \$1,195.00 |

Catholic Kennywood Day Thursday, July 21st



The day will include Mass with Bishop Zubik, Festival of Praise, Vocations Fair, & Young Adult Social.

Tickets are \$27 and can be purchased online at <https://diopitt.org/catholic-kennywood-day>

You will click the registration link and enter the promo code **pittcatholic**

From the Parish Leadership Follow-Up Committee

The Cover Story, *Vision Activity*, from the recent Parish Leadership Retreat is available for parishioners to view. This exercise helps us all begin the process of developing a Parish Plan reflecting a shared vision for St. Benedict the Moor's future. You will see that the "Cover Stories" depict some ideas concerning our values, our hopes, and our imagined future.

The Church wants, and very much needs, everyone's ideas. So, please do take a minute to look at the Cover Stories, posted at the back of the Church, and on our parish website under *Parish Pastoral Planning, Parish Leadership Retreat*. Also, share your own thoughts, ideas, or questions.

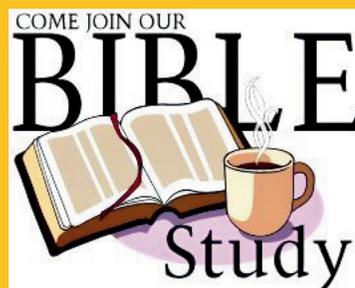
A "Comment" box will be located in the back of the Church. You can also email your comments, questions, or ideas to office@sbtmparishpgh.com.

The deadline is July 22.

Thank You!

The Power of ONE+ Pathway Program at Carlow University is seeking adult learners of color, interested in pursuing a Graduate degree towards teacher certification. There are a few scholarships left which cover tuition, textbooks, and a computer. Carlow is accepting candidates who already have an AA/AS or BA/BS degree.

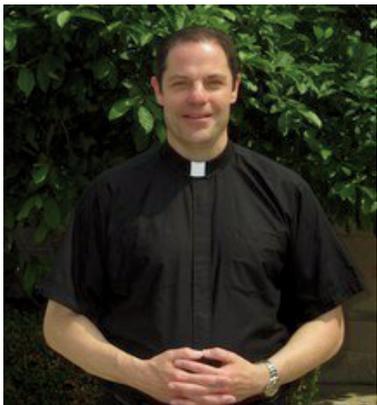
Interested individuals may email Barbara Johnson at bgjohnson@carlow.edu.



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



Pastor's Note

Love God, Love Thy Neighbor!

Last week, I took a drive out to Lancaster, PA for a few days to see the Amish Country and soak in some state history. I traveled through some of the famous Amish towns, toured a pretzel factory and visited President James Buchanan's home, Wheatland, and his simple grave in Woodward Hill Cemetery, just outside of town. Walking around in downtown Lancaster, I was amazed on how many homeless men and women I saw laying around several of the street corners and parks. It broke my heart to see such poverty in a city not too far away from the Pennsylvania State Capital. Near the Lancaster County Courthouse, a church group stopped to give cold water and a bag of food to several individuals camping out in the plaza.

This weekend we celebrate the Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time. The readings focus on loving God and loving our neighbor.

In the First Reading from the Book of Deuteronomy, we read how Moses speaks to the sinful people, pleading with them to keep the Lord's commandments as they repent with their whole heart and soul. He reminds his people that God's commandments are a gift not a burden. The Law is a gift to Israel so that they will always know what God asks of them. It is always available to them; they do not need to go searching for it. They only have to carry it out.

In the Second Reading to the Colossians, we read the beginning of the Letter on how Paul gives praise to Christ Jesus, through him all things are made. Jesus is the Risen Lord who has won the victory over death, bringing salvation to the world. Through him, all creation holds together, and all creation currently marked by much violence and chaos, is reconciled, such that the promise of peace is firmly established.

In the Gospel of Luke, we read one of most beloved gospel stories, the "Parable of the Good Samaritan," (this is only found in Luke). Jesus teaches that a neighbor is anyone, who, out of love for God, meets the love and the needs of others. This parable is a call to extend ourselves to the many people in the world today who are hurting and in need of help. The parable of the Good Samaritan is a call to authentic, genuine love.

Jesus did away with social and religious boundaries. He challenges us to rethink what it means to be a neighbor. Our neighbors are not those in our circle of friends but those whom we feel uncomfortable with; those considered "outcast."

Christ's words call us to extend charity to those we fear and understand that they have gifts to offer. Let us be more like the Good Samaritan, showing selfless love to those in need, and open our hearts and our love for all of God's people, each of whom is created in his own image.

Parish Leadership Follow-up Committee

Back in April, leaders from our parish attended a Day of Retreat conducted by John Flaherty as they discussed and prayed about the future of our parish as we continue to move forward setting out our hopes and dreams, and goals.

As you will see in this week's bulletin, for the next several weeks, members of the Parish Leadership Follow-Up

Committee will begin posting some communication in the bulletin and on our parish website. We also will display some posters that members of the Leadership Team drew up on poster board. They will be displayed in the back of the church for parishioners to view and have an opportunity to comment on and offer input. Stay tuned for further information and how you can become involved with the pastoral planning.

Members of the committee include **Julie Mondello, Thomas Reiter, Darrell Rubin, Janice Simmons, and Gwendolyn Young.**

Bishop Zubik to Visit St. Benedict the Moor

Bishop David A. Zubik will be the Principal Celebrant at the 11am mass next Sunday, July 17 to celebrate our 133 years of the founding of St. Benedict the Moor Parish on July 28, 1889, and the reestablished Personal Parish for Black Catholics on July 13, 2020!

We are planning to have a delicious, boxed lunch prepared by Roxanne's Catering of Monroeville, drinks, and refreshments immediately after mass in the back of the church and outside in a tent with tables and chairs in our parking lot.

Something to Think About...

The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention

With God, All Things Are Possible!

Rev. Thomas J. Burke
Pastor

Fr. David Taylor

Fr. Walter Burghardt tells us that "if to be a Christian is to put on Christ, then to be a Christian is to

clothe yourself in his compassion." And while it is human to feel hurt; to link that hurt to others is to be Christlike. In the parable of the Good Samaritan Jesus tells us to go and do likewise. None of us have the moral strength to do this on our own.

During these difficult times we can easily feel overwhelmed and more inclined to focus on our own needs. But when we can move beyond self to our neighbor, we so often find relief from our personal struggles. To share in the compassion of Christ is a gift that daily brings us closer to our neighbor.

During Hurricane Katrina we became aware that a number of our families had relatives living in the most vulnerable areas of the hurricane. It was most devastating in some of the poorest areas of New Orleans. Some of these families were able to relocate to the Pittsburgh area where they were welcomed into our faith community and schools. We also partnered with one of the Catholic parishes located in a neighborhood in the center of the hurricane.

To be personally involved in the suffering of others is the essence of discipleship. Jesus calls all of us to be that "Good Samaritan".

Fr. Matthew Hawkins

As Catholics, we are often quick to jump to conclusions about the worship practices of other Catholics. This leads to hard feelings and misunderstanding.

We would do well not to be so quick to judge one another. Instead, we should try to understand that there are many ways to express devotion to God.

When I first began the practice of Eucharistic adoration, many years ago as a nocturnal adorer at the Newman Center near the University of Pittsburgh, I remember being somewhat put off by what seemed to me to be the anti-social behavior of one of the other adorers who never made eye contact with me during the entire hour of devotion. The two of us were alone in the chapel with Christ just before dawn every Friday morning. I thought that the least we could do, in Christian fellowship, would be to acknowledge each other's presence. As I saw it, this would take nothing away from our devotion to Christ in the Eucharist, but it would acknowledge how we, as Christ's body, were sharing something special at that hour. He was having none of it.

His gaze was fixed straight ahead, and he never cracked a smile or said a word. It took me a while to realize that he was not misanthropic; his devotion was sincere and extended to all of humanity but at that hour, under those circumstances, he felt it would be inappropriate for his attention to be focused anywhere other than on Christ in the monstrance.

When I entered seminary I remember several of my seminarian brothers saying that Black American and Latino parishes didn't know anything about liturgical theology because they wandered all over the church shaking hands and hugging each other during the sign-of-peace. As far as they were concerned, these parishes in Black and Latino neighborhoods in Baltimore treated Mass as a social club rather than focusing on the presence of Christ on the altar.

Those seminarians did not understand

that in the parishes they criticized, the "extended" sign-of-peace was a practice of putting the liturgy into practice. Those parishes not only looked forward, to the transubstantiation of the bread and wine that was taking place on the altar, but they also looked outward to the transformation of their assembly, in all of its brokenness, into the presence of Christ in the world. In the context of the culture of those parishes, anything less than hugging one another during the sign of peace would be a refusal to recognize the human face of God.

And so it goes, a member of one of my former parishes said that she didn't like to attend daily Mass because she couldn't stand hearing "all that lifeless monotony" when people were praying the rosary. She accused those who pray the Rosary of "empty worship." It never occurred to her that the repetition in the Rosary enables us to become detached from the distractions of the world and enter into a prayerful state in which the Blessed Mother faithfully directs us to Christ.

As Catholics, we are often quick to judge the practices of others. With patience and open hearts, we will learn how to be more charitable toward each other and tolerant of different forms of spiritual expression and engagement. The life of the community of faith is an ongoing journey. The person who may appear to us as cold and aloof may be entering more deeply into the mystery of prayer so that they will be reenergized to be a reliable companion for others traveling along the way. We should respect this and not try to shame them into "being social." Likewise, the person who is socially outgoing and appears to disrespect sacred space, lacking sufficient awe in the presence of God, may be practicing "the mysticism of the marketplace." They may be practicing a form of devotion that expresses itself by acknowledging the presence of God in our relationships with each other.

On this pilgrimage of life, let us be curious, ask questions, listen, and try to understand and not be so quick to judge without knowing the different ways people encounter Christ.

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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