



# Saint Benedict the Moor Parish

Personal Parish for Black Catholics in Pittsburgh

*"With God All Things Are Possible!"*

**AUGUST 7, 2022**

## Mass Schedule

Sunday 11:00 am

Livestream:

[facebook.com/SBTMPGH/live](https://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](mailto:tburke@diopitt.org)

Rev. David H. Taylor,

Senior Parochial Vicar:

[dtaylor@diopitt.org](mailto:dtaylor@diopitt.org)

Rev. C. Matthew Hawkins,

Parochial Vicar:

[mhawkins@diopitt.org](mailto:mhawkins@diopitt.org)

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Ray Krivanek, Maintenance

Jennifer L. Whitley, Bulletin Editor:

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Religious Education

[religiouseducation@sbtmparishpgh.com](mailto:religiouseducation@sbtmparishpgh.com)



Pray for all students  
and teachers to excel  
and be safe.



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

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Website:  
[sbtmparishpgh.com](http://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](mailto: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  
Jennifer Whitley  
Rudolph Williams  
JJ Younger

## Mass Intentions

August 7 11:00 am  
19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Fr. Thomas J. Burke  
Stotts Family  
(Victoria Betsill)

August 14 11:00 am  
20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Fr. David Taylor  
Special Intentions

## Stewardship JULY 31

Offertory	PSP	Special Collections
\$3,414.36	\$180.00	\$185.00

## Birthdays

August 7 — August 13

**Rontay Dolby**  
**Deidra Washington**  
**Julius McGrady Jr.**  
**Mary Ann Ritter**  
**Florence Chielu**

**Happy Birthday!!**



## From the Parish Leadership Follow-Up Committee

We are delighted that many of you took the time to engage with committee members and view the posters displayed on the walls in the back of church. Our goal was to give parishioners a look at the fruit yielded from the retreat held in April and get your valuable input. All of this information will assist in our parish pastoral planning for the future of St. Benedict the Moor Parish. We did not receive any additional input from the comment box, calls into the parish office, or online, by the July 22nd deadline; so the process will move forward with the leadership of Pastoral Council.  
Thank You!

**THE NATIONAL BLACK CATHOLIC CONGRESS XIII IS OPENING  
JULY 20, 2023 at The GAYLORD RESORT and  
Convention Center  
National Harbor, Maryland!!!**

Theme: **"WRITE THE VISION; A PROPHETIC CALL TO THRIVE"**

**\*WHO should attend:** BLACK CATHOLICS, ALL WHO WORSHIP ALONG SIDE AND THOSE WHO MINISTER WITHIN THE AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY

**\*WHY attend:** TO ENRICH YOUR FAITH, ENLIVEN YOURSELF SPIRITUALLY, MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY BE IN THE PRESENCE OF BLACK LAYPERSONS, CLERGY, including Cardinals, Archbishops and Bishops. with LITURGY, MUSIC, ADORATION and WORKSHOPS addressing issues that are in common with other Black Catholics across the U.S.A.

LOOK in the bulletin for upcoming time sensitive messages or inserts. Keep informed right on our parish website, under "Resources", "Black Catholic Congress" for a wealth of information about The National Congress!



## Pastor's Note

### **Be Prepared!**

This weekend we celebrate the Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary time. All three readings focus on discipleship, trusting in God's way and being prepared for the coming of the Son of Man.

In the first reading from the Book of Wisdom, we read how the people of Israel celebrate Passover and put their trust in the Word of God. The book of Wisdom reminds the Jewish people living in Alexandria that their God is the one who delivered their ancestors from Egypt. In this passage, the author draws on Israel's exodus traditions to demonstrate God's power and dependability. God's holy people experience the divine saving power. This reading presents the Israelites as a people who truly value the wisdom that only God can give.

In the Second Reading to the Hebrews, we read how the faith of Abraham and Sarah gives all people an example to follow. They had faith to listen to God's word and complete their journey to the Promised Land. They chose not to look back, and trusted that God would give them a family. Because of their deep faith they kept moving forward.

In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus teaches his disciples what it means to be prepared for the coming of the Son of Man. He tells his disciples to sell their riches, give Alms, and work for lasting heavenly riches. While it was not likely to have been

taken literally (to sell everything that we have) it emphasizes that the disciples should not be attached to possessions. Luke is writing for a second or third generation of Christians who are no longer expecting Jesus to immediately come again as did the first generation. Today's Gospel reflects Luke's efforts to rethink Jesus' Second Coming.

Jesus reminds us today that discipleship is extremely demanding, and the Kingdom is a gift whose value exceeds others. Earthly treasure is never secure, the real treasure is to be found in heaven. No one knows when the end will happen, but we need to be prepared.

In every circumstance, we are called to love our neighbor, remain faithful in prayer, remain attentive to the movements of the Holy Spirit in our lives, and not give up on God. When life gets difficult, let us remain faithful and be ready to meet Jesus.

We have a "treasure" waiting for us in heaven. We can prepare by serving others with love. Jesus gives us two messages in today's Gospel, do not be afraid and follow him closely, and be prepared for his second coming. Let us not have fear but have faith. What is your treasure?

### **RCIA**

Do you want to learn more about the Catholic faith? Are you baptized in another faith and would like to be Catholic? Are you baptized Catholic but need communion and or confirmed? The **Rite of Christian Initiation Program (RCIA)** will be starting after Labor Day. Please give me a call at (412) 661-7222 ext. 202 or e-mail at [tburke@diopitt.org](mailto:tburke@diopitt.org) to discuss.

### **Parish Improvements**

We are seeking out three bids to have our parking lot repaved and new lines painted. I am working with the Finance Council and the Diocese of Pittsburgh,

Office of Property and Planning with this project.

We are also looking into getting an electronic gate to safely secure our parking lot. Funds from our Campaign for the Church Alive will help pay for this much needed project.

### **Parish Pastoral Plan**

After Labor Day, we will resume with our Pastoral and Finance Council meetings, and will continue to work on our Pastoral Plan. I want to thank the Parish Leadership Follow-Up Committee for helping us communicate the goals and objectives, and for displaying the posters in the back of the church from our Parish Leadership Retreat this past Spring. Let us continue to think about our future, establishing goals and objectives on what we want St. Benedict the Moor Parish to be.

### **Assumption—August 15**

Monday, August 15 is the Feast of the Assumption of our Blessed Mother. Please note that because this Holy Day falls on a Monday this year, IT IS NOT A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION. There will be 9am mass held at St. Bede Church, of St. Mary Magdalene Parish in Point Breeze.

### **Looking Ahead**

**Confirmation Retreat -  
Saturday, October 8.**

**Confirmation -  
Sunday, October 16, 11am mass with  
Bishop William Waltersheid.**

### **Something to Think About...**

**Not what we have but what we enjoy  
constitutes our abundance.**

**With God, All Things Are Possible!**

Rev. Thomas J. Burke  
Pastor

**Fr. David Taylor**

Often, I am asked about the circumstances leading me to the Catholic church. This then leads to an understanding of the conversion of my entire family over a two-year period. This then leads to not only my vocation to the priesthood but that of my brother who preceded me in ordination by eight years.

I always have to admit there was no preconceived plan for this. There was no history of Catholicism in my family. We were blessed to attend Catholic schools, but with little encouragement to seek a vocation.

In many African American families, conversion to the Catholic faith is not a family endeavor, but rather a decision of one or two persons. My brother and I had the support and encouragement of our parents and siblings, and that became a source that helped sustain us on the journey. We met many roadblocks along the way, but they became a source of motivation to continue on. When I look at the lives of individuals like Sr. Thea Bowman and Fr. Augustus Tolton, I cannot help but believe that they paved the way for my brother and I to answer the call of God.

In today's reading from Hebrews, we read that "Faith is the realization of what is hoped for, and evidence of things not seen". The powerful story of Abraham and Sarah is testimony of this. They even found humor in this "impossibility". The foundation of many difficult and unlikely events of life can be understood in this statement of faith. Yes, mine was an unlikely vocation, but faith led not only to hope but the beginning of making it happen.

**Fr. Matthew Hawkins**

In a recent column that appeared in *The New York Times*, David Brooks raised this question:

"Is Life a Story or a Game?" This is an important question for the Christian because, as Christians, we are people of the narrative, we are people of the story. When people move away from Christianity, they tend to see life as a game. This has consequences for the quality of their lives and relationships.

To be sure, we live in a "gaming culture." Many people who grew up over the past 30 years have spent endless hours playing video games. They have also seen economics, finance, and politics as games. While gaming may be entertaining, how does it compare with seeing life as being the unfolding of a story? Also, what does it mean to say that Christians are people of the story instead of the game?

Brooks quotes the writer William Storr who believes, says Brooks, that life is a game and people who think that life is a story are merely fooling themselves. Storr, according to Brooks, says that life is really all about gaining social status. It is about getting other people to "defer to us, offer respect, admiration or praise [and] it feels good."

In contrast, people who see life as a story, says Brooks, appreciate that "Each person is born into a family. Over the course of life, we find things to love and commit to -- a vocation, a spouse, a community. At times, we flounder and suffer but do our best to learn from our misfortunes to grow in wisdom, kindness and grace. At the end, hopefully, we can look back and see how we have

nurtured deep relationships and served a higher good."

Brooks points out that life's gamers pride themselves on being "realists" because they do not believe in the loftier desires of the human heart. Instead, they say, "we have to be man enough to face how unpleasant" the world is. But life's story-dwellers point out that the gamers have made themselves miserable by focusing on the baser instincts of people and calling these base impulses "reality."

Brooks argues that ours has become a culture of gamers. It used to be a culture of stories. Stories encourage people to go on journeys and cultivate virtues. They beckon us to go on an adventure of spiritual and emotional growth. Christians are people of the story. Jesus is always calling us to "put out into the deep," and to "come and see," and "follow me."

Brooks, who is Jewish, recognizes why people enjoy games. But recognizing the popularity of the gamer's world is not the same as wanting to live there. Brooks writes: "The status-mad world that Storr describes is loveless -- a world I recognize but not one I want to live in. Ultimately, games are fun, but gaming as a way of life is immature."

Christians live in a world of stories. The essays and creative writing of G.K. Chesterton, C.S. Lewis, and J.R.R. Tolkien are examples of this. We live in a world where we are not the same at the end of our lives as we were when our story began. We live in a world of covenants, commitments, relationships, and emotional and spiritual growth. We live in a world where crosses, suffering, and death are part of our pilgrimage through life.

**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](mailto: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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Help us reach and inform our parishioners with weekly communication efforts

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Contact Michael Freker @ [mfreker@diopitt.org](mailto:mfreker@diopitt.org) or call 412-456-3055



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