



# Saint Benedict the Moor Parish

*Personal Parish for Black Catholics in Pittsburgh*

*"With God All Things Are Possible!"*

**AUGUST 28, 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:

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Priscilla Davis, Office Manager:

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Jeannette Finch, Sacristan

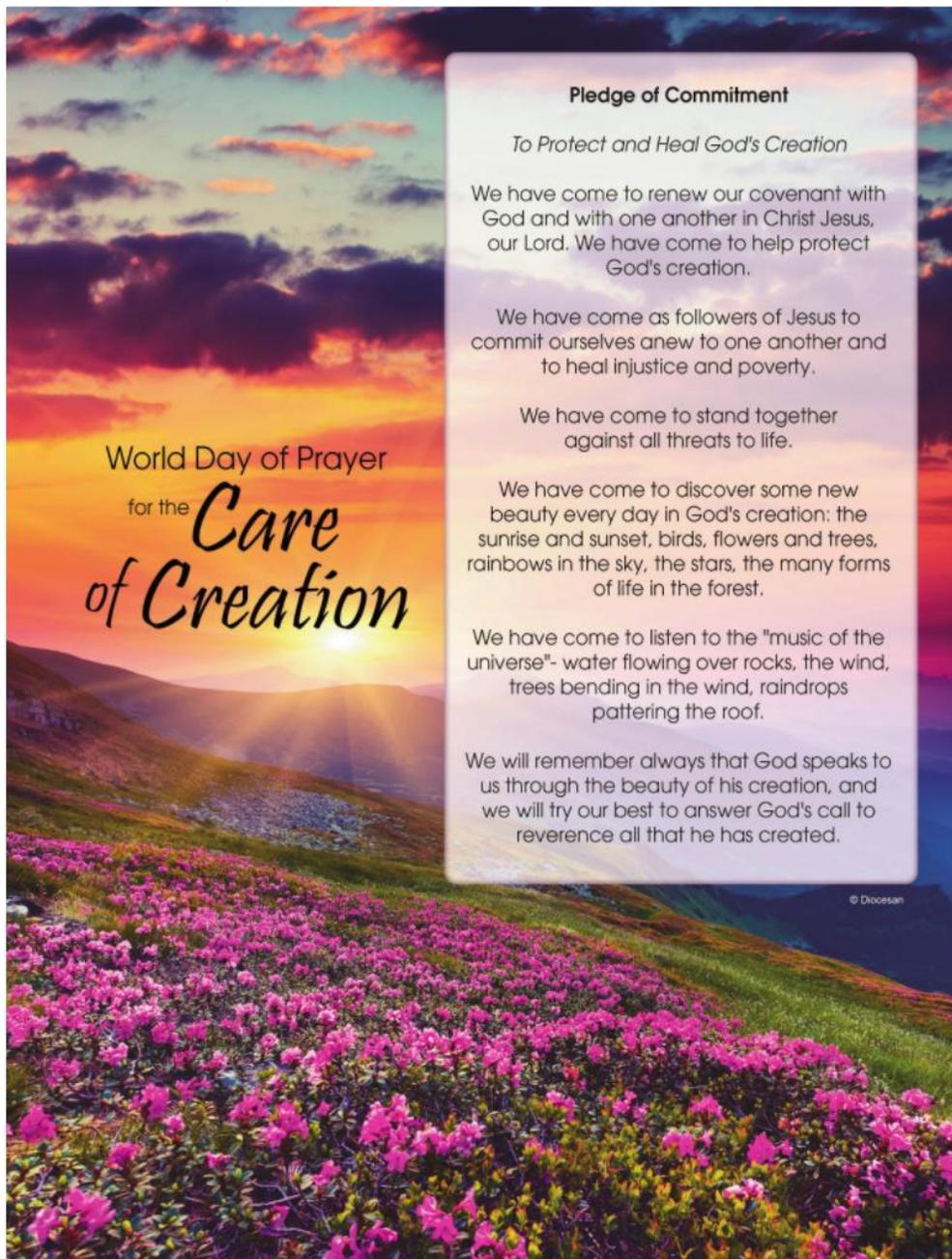
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**Saint Benedict the Moor Church • 91 Crawford Street • Pittsburgh PA 15219**

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Website:  
[sbtmparishpgh.com](http://sbtmparishpgh.com)



St. Benedict the Moor Parish-PGH



SBTMPARISHPGH



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](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  
Thoren Griffin  
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  
Andy Papworth  
Mary Samuels  
Genevieve Sanford  
Sharon Silvestri  
Janice Simmons  
Rudolph Williams  
JJ Younger

### Mass Intentions

August 28 11:00 am  
22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Fr. David Taylor  
Lamia Whaby  
(Simone Hickey)

September 4 11:00 am  
23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Fr. Thomas J. Burke  
Feast Day of Saint Teresa of Calcutta  
(Mother Teresa Conference of SvDP)

### Stewardship AUGUST 21

Offertory	PSP	Special Collections
\$2,615.06	\$65.00	\$545.00

### Birthdays

August 28 — September 3rd

Brooklyn Adams  
Peggy Bullard  
Adrienne Binda Ngoma  
Serge Gasana  
Cierra Herriot

*Happy Birthday!!*



### REGISTRATION INFORMATION FOR CONGRESS XIII

*So you may begin to save and plan, here are the registration details for Congress XIII*

*July 20 - July 23, 2023  
National Harbor, MD*

*Early bird registration - August 2022 through February 28, 2023  
Adult (19 years +) \$395, after 2/28/23 \$495  
Child (13-18 years) \$350, after 2/28/23 \$440*

*Room reservation rate for Congress attendees; incl. Standard, King or 2 Queen beds: All taxes and fees are included; and rate is available 2 days prior and 2 days after event. Rate is per person, per night, \$247.94*

*Further info shared soon...Plan for your roommate(s)*

*Contact Congress Team Members for inquiries:  
Gwen Young, Carol Johnson, Janice Simmons, Marilyn Dunson, Vicki Betsill, Toni Long, Yinka Aganga Williams, Rick Zoucha, Caroline Roach } SBTM.....Bill Rawlings, Teresa Maynor, Victor Thorpe, Fr. Dave Taylor } SMM...Grace Orsatti} St. Jude*

### The Society of St. Vincent de Paul's 170<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fundraiser

Please support your Mother Teresa Conference in aiding our Neighbors in need by prayerfully considering joining the Conference! Since last Fall, the Conference has already provided over **\$13,500** in rent, utility, furniture, food and clothing assistance. With your help, the Conference can continue strong! If volunteering is not on your radar, stop in the back of Church, post-Mass, the weekend of August 21 and 28 to say hello to your Conference members and pick up a raffle ticket! For \$5 you receive a chance to win \$5,000, \$2,500 or \$1,000; and for \$20 you receive five tickets. All donations from Raffle tickets support the work of our Mother Teresa Conference right outside our Church doors!

Thank you and may God Bless you!

[SvdpStTeresaPgh@gmail.com](mailto:SvdpStTeresaPgh@gmail.com) PH: 412-204-7446



## Pastor's Note

### **Be Humble!**

One of the fun things about going to a wedding reception is to see who we are going to be seated with. When we enter the banquet hall, we look for our name on a place card and what table number we are assigned. It is always interesting when I sit at a table and strike up a conversation about faith or family matters, the Steelers, Penguins or Pirates. Last week I attended a wedding reception for the son of my high school gym teacher at Carrick High School. I sat at a table of people I did not know at first, but as the evening went on, we all became friends and enjoyed the food and fellowship.

This weekend we celebrate the Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary time. The readings focus on humility. In the First Reading from the Book of Sirach, we read how a wise teacher offers a lesson on the wisdom of humble service to God. The very first line of the reading identifies humility as a key characteristic of those seeking wisdom. Sirach cautions those students of wisdom to recognize the limitations of earthly pursuits.

Our Second Reading from Hebrews refers to two mountain scenes or experiences. The first reference is to Mount Sinai, the holy mountain where God was made manifest and entered a covenant relationship with Israel, and the second reference is to Mount Zion and the temple, on how the journey of faith leads people up to the heavenly Jerusalem. In

this city, the saints stand before Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant through the shedding of his blood on the cross.

In the Gospel of Luke, we read how Jesus takes advantage of table fellowship to instruct some Pharisees and others that true honor requires inviting the poor, crippled, lame, and the blind to places of honor. Luke places this story during Jesus' journey to Jerusalem, which is devoted to the teachings on discipleship. While Jesus accepted an invitation to dine at the home of a leading Pharisee, the people were observing him. What will Jesus do? What will he say?

Jesus describes how Christians are to act when meeting for the Eucharistic meal. The wedding banquet is a common image used by the prophets for the Kingdom of God. True humility is born in our relationship with Christ and his love. To not take the seat of honor, even when we think we deserve it, goes against much what our culture celebrates. Humility helps us to take the spotlight off ourselves. When we stop putting ourselves first, we become more open to the people around us. True humility requires great strength. Choosing to put other people ahead of yourself goes against a lot of ingrained habits and self-interest.

We need to have humility to be comfortable. God helps us to welcome everyone to the table with us. True humility is seeing all people as equal before God. No one is better than anyone else in God's eyes. All are equal.

God's banquet table is a model of what the world should look like. Rather than seeking public acclaim and honor, let us think of the things of God and share what you have with those who cannot repay you, just as God does, and your reward will be great in heaven.

### **Labor Day—September 5**

Please join us for 8 am mass at St.

Benedict the Moor Church on Labor Day, Monday, September 5. The City of Pittsburgh will also be conducting its annual Labor Day Parade! Please note the parish offices will be closed for the holiday and reopen on Tuesday, September 6.

### **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.

### **Additional Assignment**

Bishop David A. Zubik has appointed **Fr. Matthew Hawkins** part time Chaplain at Oakland Catholic High School, effective Monday, August 29, 2022. Fr. Matthew will continue in his role as Parochial Vicar at St. Benedict the Moor Parish and St. Mary Magdalene Parish.

### **Welcome**

A special welcome to **Patti Johnson** and **Naudya Benjamin** who recently registered at St. Benedict the Moor Parish.

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

Whatever you do, think not of yourself, but of God.

- St. Vincent Ferrer

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

Rev. Thomas J. Burke  
Pastor

**Fr. David Taylor**

A priest who was a good friend of mine would tell me that when he was invited to dinners or banquets, he would try to sit at the table nearest the entrance

so that he could leave unnoticed when he needed to leave early. He nearly always accepted invitations, but usually stayed only for a brief period of time. I tried this a few times, but it rarely worked. Often I would be at the head table or near the front. But I am always grateful for the invitation.

It is interesting to note that in church the rear pews are often the ones to be first occupied. I have celebrated mass where the front pews are nearly empty, and the rear pews are nearly full. At church we are asked to imitate Jesus in having an "open door policy". There are no special invitees except the Lord, who is also our host. But an open door has little meaning without an open heart. And there should never be a head table for the Holy Eucharist. Being first or last at God's table is of no consequence. Being a disciple of Christ is the main criteria.

Last week there was a special dedication of the August Wilson home. This took place on Bedford Avenue in the Hill District. This is something we can all be proud of. He was a playwright who always gave a human, spiritual meaning to his productions. He has family at St. Benedict the Moor Parish. He really made Pittsburgh proud.

Last weekend the Harambe11 African American Festival was held in Homewood. It took place on Homewood Avenue and Kelly Street where I live. It was so good to see many past acquaintances I have known over the years. Many good, positive aspects of the community were on display. I was proud to see the hundreds of people present. Each day there was prayer and spiritual reflections; very uplifting.

**Fr. Matthew Hawkins**

In spite of how messy and chaotic our lives often seem, grace breaks through. We often encounter Christ in the midst of life's

storms. This was the topic of my address to Catholic Charities for the Diocese of Pittsburgh two weeks ago. When we are overwhelmed with problems and difficulties, things seem hopeless, and we discover the limits of our ability to control things, it is then that we learn how to surrender to Divine Providence and to allow God to work through us.

The messiness of life should not lead to discouragement from doing good work. If anything, we should experience a deeper connection with the rest of humanity by entering more deeply into the human condition. Our communion with Christ during painful or frustrating experiences awakens our awareness that we are not alone. During such times, we learn to draw upon a reservoir of strength and wisdom that we never even knew we had.

The tragedy of isolation and alienation is that we cut ourselves off from God and our sisters and brothers in faith who would otherwise strengthen us so that we can elevate ourselves above the desperate situations we are in. Communion with God, communion with our brothers and sisters of faith, is essential.

A popular self-help psychologist once wrote that people who need people are the most unfortunate people in the world. He was wrong. People who need people are people who are capable of living authentic lives and discovering their identity in Christ. With all of our imperfections, a person who does not feel a sense of connection with other human beings, a person who does not love people, both individually and collectively, in spite of

our depravity, deformity, and madness, is on the road to becoming inhuman.

It is not a virtue to insist that people be perfect before we can love them. God loved us enough to die for us in our imperfection. How can we do anything less? In our charitable work, as in other ministries, we encounter people when they are most vulnerable, and their circumstances are most insecure. We meet people when they are stressed, when they are not at their best. The question we face is whether or not we can see Christ in them in spite of their situation and circumstances or if we will deny Christ in the people around us.

For those of us who enjoy popular music, we do well to go back to Joan Osborn's song from 1995 titled "One of Us." The refrain in the song was: "What if God was one of us? Just a slob like one of us? Just a stranger on the bus tryin' to make his way home?" The essence of our incarnate faith is the ability to see the face of God in ourselves and in our neighbor despite our imperfections.

The work of Catholic charity, whether individually or through an organization, reminds us that we are called to give of ourselves beyond the breaking point. We are called to give of ourselves until we are broken open -- just like the Eucharist. This taxes our bodies, minds, and souls to the point where we give more than we think we have in us. To be broken open is not to be broken down. To be broken open is to become a conduit through which God's blessings can flow. We are called to be Eucharistic people of faith.

Life is messy, but this does not mean that we should recoil from it; rather we should recognize ourselves in the faces of those we seek to help. God pours out God's graces upon us, but he also calls us to be the vessels through whom those graces can be delivered. If first, we empty ourselves in prayer only then we can be faithful instruments of God's love through charity and social action.

**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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