



Saint Benedict the Moor Parish

Personal Parish for Black Catholics in Pittsburgh

"With God All Things Are Possible!"

SEPTEMBER 11, 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:

mhawkins@diopitt.org

Priscilla Davis, Office Manager:

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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
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

September 11 11:00 am
24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Fr. Matthew Hawkins
Feast Day of Blessed Frederic Ozanam
(Mother Teresa Conference of SVdP)

September 18 11:00 am
24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Fr. David Taylor
Matthew J. Patterson
(Keith & Brenda Younger)



This week
the Sanctuary
Candle
is Lit in Memory of
Lamia Whaby by
Simone Hickey

Stewardship September 4

Offertory	PSP	Special Collections
\$4,817.00	\$255.00	\$178.00

Birthdays

September 11th — September 17th

Pamela Ebo
Harold Lee
Brenda Glenn
Sr. Donna Cronauer
Kenna Fomunjeng
Christianne Owunna
Alicia Gasana
Gabrielle Adams
Happy Birthday!!



Bishop's Education Fund

The Bishop's Education Fund began in 1995 with the purpose of keeping Catholic education affordable and available to the children of the diocese. In the 27 years of BEF disbursements to families in need, 52,000 grants have been provided, totaling \$23 million. Even with this outstanding record of success, it is not nearly sufficient to meet the demonstrated need of the families.

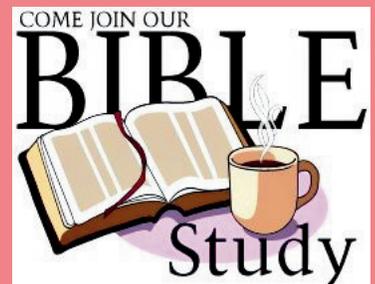
The estimated unmet financial need in the 2021-2022 school year was approximately \$9 million. Through scholarship support, families with demonstrated financial need will be provided an opportunity to give their sons and daughters a quality education, focused on Christian values and character formation at Catholic elementary schools located throughout the Diocese of Pittsburgh. Your generosity will help ensure that all families who wish to send their children to Catholic school can do so despite their financial situation.

A collection will be taken in parishes during the weekend of **September 10-11, 2022**. Donations are also accepted online at: <https://diopitt.org/bef>.

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

Lost But Found!

This weekend, September 11, marks the 21st Anniversary of the terror attacks on the United States at the World Trade Center in New York City, the Pentagon in Washington D.C., and in Shanksville, Somerset County. We pray for all those who perished on this horrific day, and seek out unity and peace in our country and our world. We pray for the situation going on in Ukraine, Russia, China, the Middle East, and pray for our Men and Women serving in our military. God Bless America!

This weekend we celebrate the Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time; the readings focus on repentance, forgiveness, and love. What was lost has now been found.

In the First Reading from the Book of Exodus, we read how Moses asks God to forgive the people of Israel for their sinful ways. Moses pleads with God to remember the promises made to the patriarchs about the countless descendants destined to inherit the land of Cana. God is pleased with this ideal selfless response from Moses.

In the Second Reading from Paul to Timothy, we read how Paul gives thanks to God for the new direction he has taken. God saved Paul and made him an example for all others who strive to become believers.

In the Gospel of Luke, we read how Jesus teaches us three parables: the lost sheep, lost coin, and the Prodigal Son. What was lost has now been found. A major theme throughout Luke's gospel, is repentance and forgiveness. All three parables

emphasize something being lost and then found. In each case there is much rejoicing over what was found. Jesus teaches us that God will always be that good shepherd, that persistent woman, and the generous loving father.

God's mercy is inclusive, powerful, and beyond human wisdom. In God's view there is no being for whom God will not search high and low to find and call back home.

Music Ministry

With the departure of former Music Director, **Chris Catone**, I am incredibly grateful for **Antonia Long** and **Craig Yankes**, who will be working together to fill in temporarily for our Music Ministry. If you would like to join our choir, please contact Antonia and/or Craig. We thank you for your patience during this transitional period.

Parish Share 2022

Every parish in the Diocese of Pittsburgh participates in the Parish Share Program which helps operate the Diocesan Pastoral Center and St. Paul Seminary in Crafton, the Hospital Chaplaincy programs at our local hospitals, Campus Ministry Programs at our local colleges and universities, and helps with training and programs for our school teachers and religious education catechists. We all benefit from parish share! This year, St. Benedict the Moor Parish's goal is **\$30,000**. We have collected **\$3,000** so far. Please help us reach our goal by making a contribution payable to St. Benedict the Moor Parish and memo the gift "Parish Share." Thank you for your generosity.

Faith Direct/Online Giving

If you travel frequently or cannot make to St. Benedict the Moor for mass on a regular basis but still want to be a member and contribute to the parish, you can sign up for Faith Direct, which is our secure, online giving program. You can control your deductions from your checking account and not worry about the envelopes. If you are interested in this wonderful program, extra brochures are in the church lobby, or you can

contact Priscilla Davis at the parish office or via the internet, www.faithdirect.net. Our parish code is PA1097. It is a easy, safe way to contribute to the parish.

Parish Maintenance

Matt Mertz Plumbing is repairing the first-floor bathroom in the rectory. A pipe below the floor is leaking.

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 this coming Tuesday, September 13. Please contact Teresa Maynor at St. Mary Magdalene Parish at 412-661-7222 ext. 205 or email at tmaynor@stmarymagpgh.org

Religious Education/ Youth Ministry

We need a Third and Fourth Grade Catechist for our Religious Education Program and looking for adult leaders to help with our Youth Program. If you are interested, please contact Lisa Joy Finch at mass or email at Finchlisajoy@gmail.com

Vacation 2022

Please note that I am currently on my annual vacation this week thru Sunday, September 18. Please hold any E-mail's or phone calls until I return.

Something to Think About...

Mercy is the greatest attribute of God. —*St. Faustina*

With God, All Things Are Possible!

Rev. Thomas J. Burke
Pastor

Fr. David Taylor



Large families can be a special blessing. They also can present some significant challenges. This can be especially true when there are issues of economic hardship. Sharing and looking out for each

other can require major sacrifices for the entire family. Children can learn very early how to take personal responsibility for each other.

Often there can be one or more family members that need special attention because of health or other unusual circumstances. These family members can require major efforts from the entire family. Most families are happy and willing to make these extra efforts, but there can also be issues of jealousy and anger. Being from a big family, nine siblings, has always been something I have cherished. Family life was a great encouragement to me as I contemplated a vocation to the priesthood. Family support always made the difference.

In today's Gospel, Jesus emphasizes the need and willingness to provide such special care. The parables of the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost Son, are of real encouragement for those willing to make these often-difficult sacrifices. God has a special care for all of us and is willing to go the extra mile to keep us in his fold. Just as family can be called to divert attention to those who have special needs, we must acknowledge that our God does this for us throughout our entire life.

Most of us have had the experience of losing something like keys, a cell phone, or a lost or stolen wallet or purse. We pay little attention to these "essential" things until they are lost, then we spend an immense amount of time searching for them until they are found. God gives us this kind of attention all through life. He asks us to provide this for each other.

Today we observe the anniversary of September 11th. This tragedy brought out the special care extended to those who were the victims, and to their families. Such sad events can bring out the best in humanity, but the Lord calls us to this kind of generosity all the time. Each day provides us with opportunities for this special care for our neighbors.

Fr. Matthew Hawkins



Few things will determine the future of the Catholic Church in the United States more than the state of Catholic

education from kindergarten through adulthood. The formation of faith is essential for Catholics at all stages of life. Poor faith formation has led many to leave the Church because it appeared as though Catholic sacramental life, theology, liturgy, and social thought never addressed the daily concerns and experiences they had. Poor faith formation leads others to reinvent Catholicism to reflect their personal opinions, separating them from the Church's apostolic teaching and universal discernment. This leads to factionalism that is ripping the Body of Christ apart.

Factionalism within the Church is tragic because it replaces the spirituality of the Church with secular social conflicts between interest groups on a battlefield of worldly power. Additionally, the failure of the Church to articulate how it addresses day-to-day human experiences is profoundly tragic because people are walking away from the cup of Life without ever having tasted it. Often, this is not the fault of the person who walks away, but of the clergy and catechists who failed to share that cup in all of its richness and beauty.

These days I find myself increasingly immersed in Catholic education at all stages of life. I lead a Bible study for adults on zoom on Thursday nights. During the week, I visit elementary and middle school classes at St. Bede and St. Benedict the Moor. I now have an additional assignment as the chaplain at Oakland Catholic High School. And this winter, I will teach students theology at St. Vincent College in Latrobe. Understanding the importance of faith-formation in a way that exposes people to the

beauty, depth, and breadth of the Church forces me to approach this work with care.

Often, catechists get bogged down in a negative discourse, emphasizing what the Church is against. We are on the defensive when we get trapped in this negative position. We cannot take something away from people without replacing it with something of greater value. If we fail to do this, they will double down on the only thing they know. They will be worse off than they were before.

Jesus told a parable about this: "When an unclean spirit goes out of a person it roams through arid regions searching for rest but finds none. Then it says, 'I will return to my home from which I came.' But upon returning, it finds it empty, swept clean, and put in order. Then it goes and brings back with itself seven other spirits, more evil than itself, and they move in and dwell there, and the last condition of that person is worse than the first (Matthew 12: 33-45).

When people only hear what the Church is against, without explaining why we are against it and especially without offering them a positive vision to replace it, we drive them away. We deprive them of communion with Christ. In 1910, G.K. Chesterton wrote a book titled, *What's Wrong With the World*. Later that year, he published an essay titled *What's Right With the World*. While his book was helpful to recognize the follies to which all of us are susceptible, Chesterton's essay was helpful to awaken us to the wisdom we should value, cherish, and preserve. Once we experience the beautiful, the good, and the true we will have little appetite for ugliness, depravity, and illusions.

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.



Help us reach and inform our parishioners with weekly communication efforts

EITC/ DSTC Scholarship credits are available! 90% State Tax Credit available to Business and Qualified Individuals!

Make a difference in local kids' lives by redirecting 90% of your PA tax liability to Catholic schools.

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



Find your path here.

www.sosf.org

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