



Saint Benedict the Moor Parish

Personal Parish for Black Catholics in Pittsburgh

"With God All Things Are Possible!"

OCTOBER 30, 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:

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Rev. C. Matthew Hawkins,

Parochial Vicar:

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Jeannette Finch, Sacristan

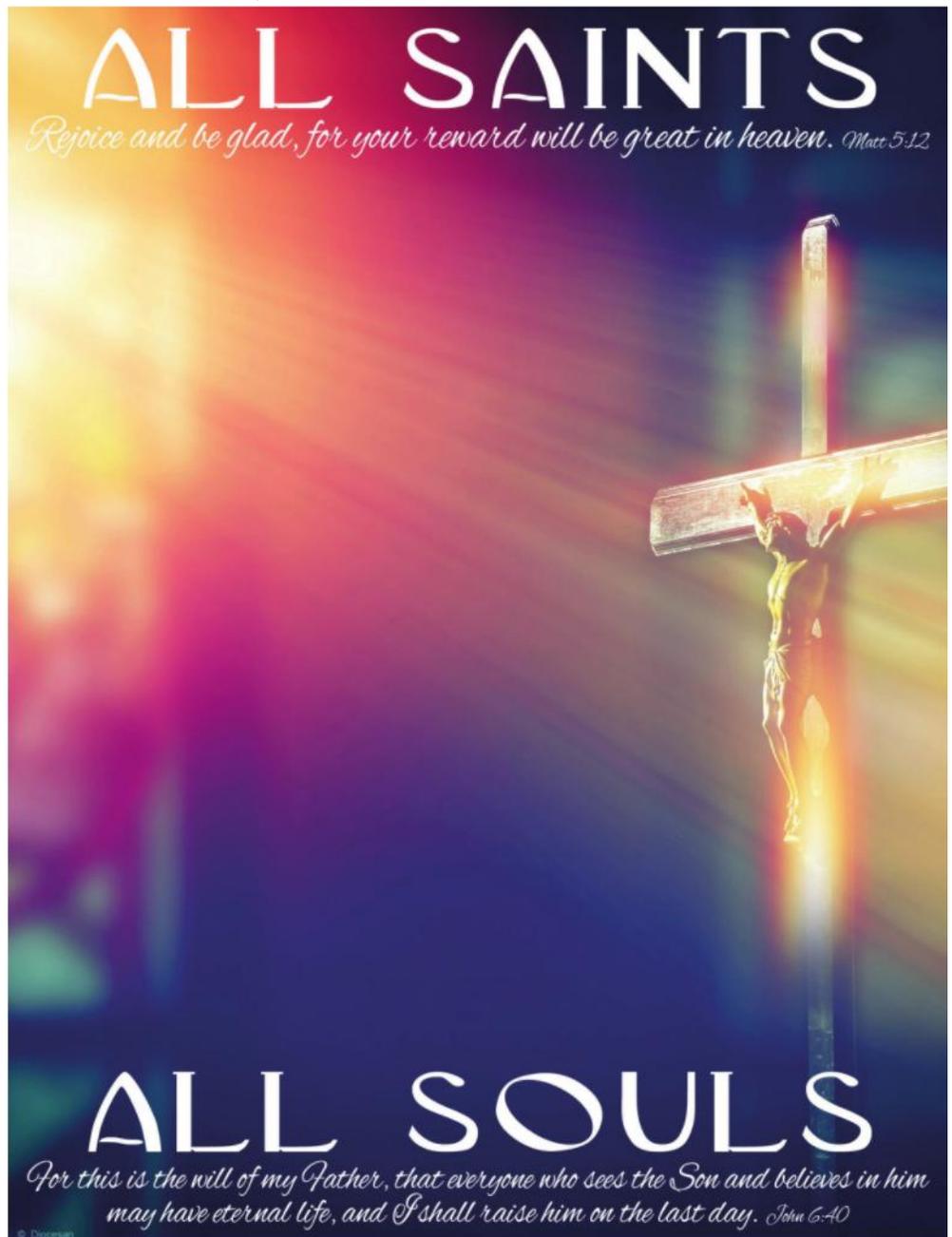
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St. Benedict the Moor Parish-PGH



[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
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

October 30 11:00 am
31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Fr. Thomas J. Burke
Helen Watson
(Keith & Brenda Younger)

November 6 11:00 am
32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Fr. Matthew Hawkins
Gladys Moran
(Jennifer Lynn Whitley)

Stewardship October 23

Offertory	PSP	Special Collections
\$4,111.00	\$145.00	\$286.00



This week
the Sanctuary
Candle is Lit in for
Dr. & Mrs.
Andrew O. Igbneweka
& Family

Hurricane Relief—Special Collection

In response to the catastrophic damage and devastation caused by Hurricane Ian and Hurricane Fiona, there will be a special collection *today* to support the Bishops Emergency Disaster Fund. This fund supports “the pastoral and reconstruction efforts of the Church through the local agencies of Catholic Relief Services and Catholic Charities USA around the globe.” Please be as generous as possible. Thank you.



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 is November 6th. A link to the podcasts of the program is on KDKA:

kdkaradio.radio.com/media/podcast/catholic-education-plus

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



Upcoming Events

“Gemstones: The Faith Journey of Pittsburgh African American Elders in the Catholic Church”

A documentary featuring elders from St. Benedict the Moor Parish and St. Mary Magdalene Parish

Saturday, November 5th at 11:00 am at Duquesne University (Duquesne Union, 3rd Floor, Africa Room).

Bring your family and friends to experience the wit, wisdom, and guidance of the elders. Be transformed as they share their personal stories about being Black and Catholic. A panel discussion and light refreshments will follow viewing the film. This event is free.

Birthdays

October 30th —
November 5th

Donald Finch
Olivia Eke
Kimberly Stevenson
Keith Davis
Dena Young
Reginald Cox
Amarachukwu Chielu
Cara Laroche
Tyrone Johnson
Patrick Livsey

Happy Birthday!!





Pastor's Note

Seeking Out Jesus!

This weekend we celebrate the Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time, all three readings remind us that God has mercy on everyone.

In the First Reading from Wisdom, we read how God patiently guides the people along the way of life. This reading describes God as the one who loves souls and urges everyone to turn to God for wisdom. God exhibits this love by working tirelessly to steer human souls toward the path of life. God loves all that God has created.

In the Second Reading from Paul to the Thessalonians, Paul prays that we may be worthy of our calling until the second coming of the Lord.

In the Gospel of Luke, we read how Zacchaeus seeks out Jesus. (Luke's Gospel provides the only account of a tax collector named Zacchaeus). Zacchaeus is bold wanting to see Jesus and he is short stature, so he climbs a sycamore tree. Jesus summons him to come down from the tree. Moved by Jesus' love and openhearted approach, Zacchaeus takes it upon himself to make restitution. He promises to do whatever is necessary to maintain his new relationship with the Lord. All the crowds can see is a sinner, but Jesus sees Zacchaeus for who he really is, a hurting person desperate for a fresh start. Jesus celebrates this transformation.

We live in a culture that passes judgement on others. Sometimes we exclude or demean or disrespect others because of assumptions that we have made. Having communion

with Christ is an act of spiritual union with the whole church. Our encounter with Christ can make us kinder and more generous to others. Let us become closer to Christ by seeking out him in scripture and in the eucharist. Let us see Christ in ourselves and in one another.

The Second Collection this weekend is for the Hurricane Ian relief efforts. Please be as generous as possible.

Financial Report

Enclosed in this week's bulletin, and on the parish website, we are publishing a Quarterly Financial Report from 7-1-2021 to 6-30-22. The Diocesan Financial Services Department will be printing out the quarterly reports for all the parishes in the Diocese of Pittsburgh to publish on a regular basis. Transparency is ever so important to communicate to the parishioners where the parish stands financially.

Over the past two years with the COVID restrictions occurring, we have managed our church property and ministries with a very lean budget in mind. We have had to make several big-ticket item repairs to the roof, parking lot, parking lot lights, plumbing, electrical and internet upgrades. Your continued support of time, talent and treasure to our faith community is essential and appreciated as we plan to grow and enhance our outreach. We appreciate all that you do for St. Benedict the Moor Parish.

Parish Improvements

Ruthrauff Services recently repaired one of the two boilers in our church basement. A wire was disconnected which was making the boiler non-functioning. It has been repaired and both are working well.

St. Benedict the Moor School Masses

The students, faculty, and staff of St. Benedict the Moor School invite parishioners to celebrate monthly mass with them. The next school mass will be held this coming Tuesday, November 1 at 1pm in the school auditorium.

St. Benedict the Moor Catholic School is located at 631 Watt Street

in the Hill District. Parking is available on Watt Street or in the school parking lot. Please use the main entrance of the school to enter.

All Saints Day

All Saints Day- A Holy Day- Tuesday, November 1, Masses will be:
9am- St. Bede
9am- St. James
Noon-Mother of Good Counsel
7pm- St. Benedict the Moor
7pm- St. Bede

During the 7pm All Saints Day mass at St. Benedict the Moor, we will also remember the parishioners who had their funeral at our Parish this past year. Extra Memorial Candles will be available to purchase for a \$5 donation.

Joint Pastoral & Finance Council Meeting

The Pastoral and Finance Councils will meet jointly on Sunday, November 13, 2022, after the 11am mass in the Sacristy.

Welcome Home!

A special warm welcome to **Andrea Mines, Kele Isibor, Mary Jo Thompson, and Karen Gomes** who recently registered at St. Benedict the Moor Parish.

We now have a new poster board with pictures of our new family members on the board in the back of the church.

Something to Think About...

"To live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often."

- St. John Henry Newman

With God, All Things Are Possible!

Rev. Thomas J. Burke
Pastor

E-Mail: tburke@diopitt.org

Fr. David Taylor

There was a family that lived next door to us as we were growing up. We became good friends. They had a son who showed a lot of unique talents.

He was always inquiring. He decided to build a tree house in the rear yard and invited us to participate. We were aware of the dangers, but we would occasionally climb up the tree to be with him. He was mentally challenged and often felt alone and unwanted. He was happy and secure being safe from ridicule and those who would mock him. We missed him and his family when we moved away. This young man, unfortunately, lived in fear of those who would not understand and appreciate him.

Today's Gospel shows a different situation of an individual who lived in apprehension of others, many of whom he had taken advantage of. Jesus was offering him a chance for a new life, but first he would have to come down, repent, and begin a new life. As difficult as it must have appeared to him, his smallness in stature could be the humble beginning to a new life. Jesus offered Zacchaeus a new life, but it came with the requirement of repentance and making amends. We are all given this kind chance for a new wholly lived life. Yes, it is risky but "staying up in the trees" will never give us the dignity we deserve as children of God.

This week we observe the special feasts of All Saints and All Souls. It is such a great honor to remember those who have gone before us, making life better for all. I know I would not be a priest today if not for the encouragement, support, and prayers of many who paved the way for me. What a joy to celebrate all of those finding favor with God after a life well lived. May they be at peace.

Fr. Matthew Hawkins

As we come to the close of "Respect Life Month," we cannot ignore the issue of abortion. Many people have the point of view that the topic of abortion is only a

"women's" issue. This perspective is understandable since the right of women to control their bodies and to "own" themselves has been denied in many cultures and throughout much of human history. The abuse of female bodies was manifested when men decided when and under what circumstances "intimacies" would take place. Women were not even expected to enjoy such intimacies; they were advised to think instead about the propagation of the nation or the tribe. This makes control over the female body a "women's" issue. But not exclusively so.

When we look at the figures for abortions in the State of Pennsylvania in 2020, 46% were performed on white women, while 44% were performed on Blacks. Blacks are only 11% of the state's population. Given the history of treating Black American lives as disposable, as though these lives do not matter, and given the history of the Eugenics movement that promoted a reduction of the Black population for the sake of a "better society," Black people, in general, have every reason to be concerned about the disproportionate rate of abortion among Black Americans. This is not only a women's issue. It is an issue that affects the entire community.

Racial oppression has been similar to gender oppression because Black Americans have a history of not owning themselves and not having control over how our bodies have been used. The historical vulnerability of our bodies is both a racial and gender issue. This makes it a Christian issue. It is an issue that concerns the fundamental dignity of our personhood.

But does this mean that the state has the right to regulate what we do with our bodies? It is a complicated question. The notion of freedom and of "free will" is not that we are free to do whatever we want, regardless of the consequences to ourselves and other human lives. Society has a stake and an interest in the consequences of the behavior of individuals.

Comedy, at its best, makes people laugh while making them think. In one of Dave

Chappelle's skits, he begins by saying that he favors a woman's right to choose. The audience cheers. He then says he favors a man's right to choose not to pay child support and adds, "My wallet, my choice." Those who cheered the first part of his statement were not so enthusiastic about the second part.

Chappelle continued, "If you have a right to kill the [child], then I surely have the right to abandon him." Of course, nobody would seriously suggest that a man should not be held responsible for supporting his child, and we welcome the state's role in enforcing this responsibility. That is precisely Chappelle's point. At the end of the segment, he comes full circle and acknowledges that "if I'm wrong" about not having the "freedom" to refuse to pay child support, "then maybe 'we're' wrong" about not having the freedom to terminate a life in the womb.

But does the fact that we consider it legitimate for the state to curb human freedoms under certain circumstances mean that this is the most effective way to prevent abortions? People who define themselves as "abortion rights advocates" say they are "pro-choice." The Catholic Church (along with Muslims, Jews, and most other Christians) are also pro-choice because we want to encourage people to make the *right* choice. Although laws codify the morals and values of our society, we will not end the scourge of abortion by focusing primarily on politics. The scourge of abortion will end when we are effective in our efforts to evangelize our society and culture.

We must acknowledge the history of denying women's right to own their bodies while also acknowledging the rights of all persons to life from conception until natural death. We must acknowledge the history of "population control" as a means of combating poverty and as a means of "ethnic cleansing" and genocide. Moreover, we must engage our community in a frank understanding of what it means to say "Black Lives Matter" and the effects of a culture of death upon our communities.

The issue of abortion is a women's issue. It is also a Black American issue. It is a community issue and an issue of our humanity. This issue is too important to be reduced to political polemics, sound bites, talking points, and demonizing anyone with whom one disagrees.

Father Matthew's Dramatized Scriptural Rosary is broadcast nightly at 7:00 PM on 102.1 FM.

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.

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



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