



Saint Benedict the Moor Parish

Personal Parish for Black Catholics in Pittsburgh

"With God All Things Are Possible!"

DECEMBER 4, 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:

office@sbtmparishpgh.com

Jeannette Finch, Sacristan

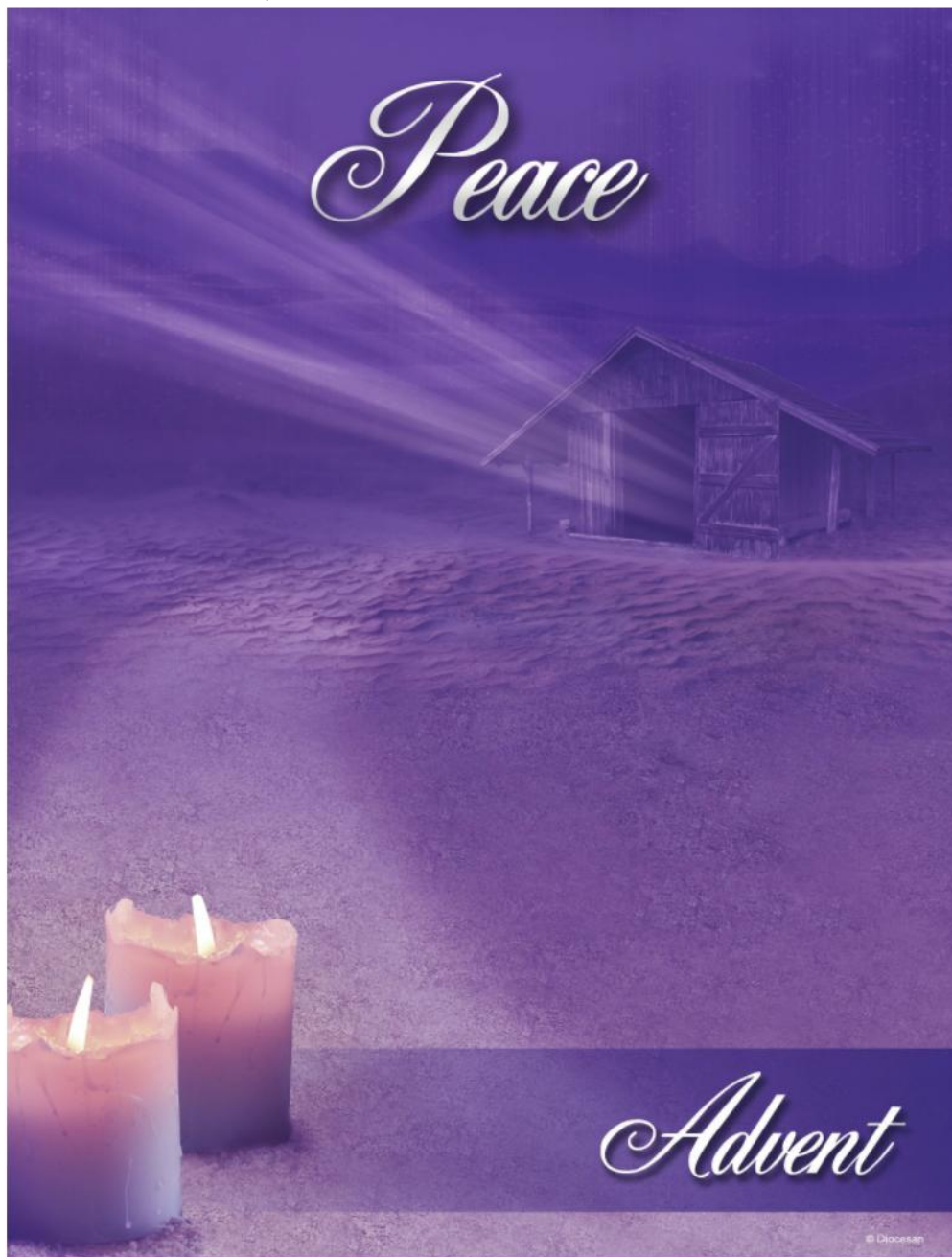
Ray Krivanek, Maintenance

Jennifer L. Whitley, Bulletin Editor:

bulletin@sbtmparishpgh.com

Religious Education

religiouseducation@sbtmparishpgh.com



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

office@sbtmparishpgh.com • 412.281.3141

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
Dolores Denton
Patricia Ellis
Fomunjeng Family

Lydia Francis
Marie Francis
Woody Frazier
Sarah Freker
James Fuller
Ann Fultz
Janet Glass
Brenda Glenn
Thoren Griffin
Christina Hall

Patti Johnson
The Jackson Family
Sandra Johnson
Harold Lee
Stella Lowden
The Mary Family
Eric McDonald
Joan Moran
Pierre Nshimyumukiza
Josephine O'Connor

Nicole Orlando
Andy Papworth
Mary Samuels
Genevieve Sanford
Sharon Silvestri
Janice Simmons
Richard A. Stewart Jr.
Rudolph Williams
JJ Younger

Mass Intentions

December 4 11:00 am
Second Sunday of Advent

Fr. Matthew Hawkins
Morris Saty
(Simone Hickey)

December 11 11:00 am
Third Sunday of Advent

Fr. Thomas J. Burke
Mary Louise Franklin
(Sisters of St. Joseph)

Stewardship NOVEMBER 20

Offertory	PSP	Special Collections
\$2,391.00	\$215.00	\$690.00



This week
the Sanctuary
Candle is Lit for
Frederick B. Elliott III
by Mr. & Mrs. Len
Costa

Happy Birthday!

MARY SAMUELS
SONYA THIGHMAN
KATHARINE DEAN
KAREN MCDILL
ANTHONY MOREHEAD
CAM'RON WYNTER
CRAIG YANKES
JAMES-BRIAN BYERS
CHRISTOPHER HSU



Black Catholic History Facts

DAME MARY A. WALKER (March 17, 1918 – December 15, 2011) was a long time and faithful member of St. Benedict the Moor Parish and a prominent community leader in the Hill District. Miss Walker served in the United States Army (Women's Army Corps) during World War II. In 1970, she founded the Hill District Federal Credit Union that she managed for twenty-two years, which is still a vibrant financial and community institution today. On her birthday in 1992, the Centre Avenue building that houses the credit union was dedicated to her and Pittsburgh City Council declared that day as "Mary A. Walker Day" in the City of Pittsburgh.

Miss Walker received from Pope John Paul II the conferral of the Knighthood of Saint Gregory the Great and the title "Dame." The honor was bestowed at a special mass by Donald W. Wuerl, Bishop of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, on May 24, 1998 at St Benedict the Moor Church. At the time of the conferral, Dame Mary was the second female in the Diocese of Pittsburgh to receive the St. Gregory honor.



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



Be vigilant at all times

LUKE 21:36

Protection of God's Children

Report suspected child abuse at the
24-Hour Child Abuse Hotline: **800.932.0313**.

If a child is in imminent danger, call 911.

To report church-related abuse to the Diocese of Pittsburgh call:

888-808-1235



Pastor's Note

Repent!

This weekend we celebrate the Second Sunday of Advent. All the readings this weekend remind us to repent and ask God for forgiveness and challenge us to become people of peace, unity, and forgiveness.

In today's first reading from the Prophet Isaiah, we read how a prophet looks ahead to the day when an ideal King sits on the throne of David. A shoot shall emerge from the stump and become a flourishing tree. A new ideal king will be motivated by the spirit of God and will display wisdom and understanding. The children will be protected from all harm, a situation unlike the past when the children of Israel were vulnerable to the many harmful influences of pride and ignorance.

In the second reading, from Paul to the Romans, we read how Paul urges us to invite all believers into the community of faith. Paul urges his readers to strive for the kind of harmony that comes from the message of the scriptures.

In the gospel of Matthew, we are introduced to John the Baptist, the cousin of Jesus and central figure during the Advent season. John's message includes a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sin and prepares the way for the Messiah. We are called to live a life of repentance and harmony in the preparation for the coming of our Lord.

Let us not fall into the negativity of the world problems but look at the Advent Wreath with the two candles lit as a sign of light, hope and peace.

St. Mary Magdalene Holiday Fundraiser

Our sister parish, St. Mary Magdalene, is having a **2023 Parish Lottery Calendar** Fundraiser. Calendars are available at the St. Mary Magdalene Parish Office on South Dallas Avenue in Point Breeze during the week or after any of the three weekend masses for \$50.00. Please make checks payable to St. Mary Magdalene Parish. The calendar will be good for the entire year starting on January 1, 2023 and run thru December 31, 2023. Participants can win \$25 daily Monday thru Saturday, \$50 on Sundays, and \$75, \$100, or even up to \$200 on Holy and Holiday Days based on the 7pm three-digit lottery number. This will make great Christmas Gifts. All proceeds from this fundraiser will go towards maintenance projects in the parish.

Looking Ahead

**Feast of the Immaculate Conception-
Thursday, December 8**

9am- St. Bede

9am- St. James

Noon-Mother of Good Counsel

7pm- St. Bede

7pm- St. Benedict the Moor

**"Light is On for You"- Confession and
private prayer- Wednesday, December
14, 6pm to 8pm- St. Bede Church**

Parish Share 2022

Our Goal for Parish Share this year is **\$30,000**. We still need to raise **\$17,000** by the end of January. Parish Share is the annual fee the Diocese assesses to each parish to help operate the Diocesan Offices in Green Tree, help run St. Paul Seminary, our Hospital Chaplain, and College Campus Ministry Programs, and help train our Catechists and lay volunteers throughout the Diocese of Pittsburgh. We all benefit from Parish Share. As you plan to make your year-

end donations, please remember St. Benedict the Moor Parish Share Program so we can reach our goal!

Management Fee 2023

Please note the Diocese of Pittsburgh is changing the annual Parish Share Campaign for 2023 and calling it a Management Fee. The Management Fee program is a method of allocating the operational cost of the Diocese over the Parishes it supports. This calculation is going to be more simplified and direct. The Management Fee will be calculated by all offertory collections, donations, bequests, and other operating income. The Management Fee that we have assessed for 2023 is **\$37,727**.

Our monthly fee to reach this amount will be **\$3,144** which will come out of our checking account monthly that we will have to pay. Please help us by making a weekly or monthly contribution to the parish so we can pay this assessment

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 **Thursday, December 8 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.

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

On this Second Sunday of Advent, we are again challenged to be people of hope and vision. Isaiah, like many other prophets

then and now, knew that the beginning of change must always begin with a belief that it can happen. John the Baptist continued with this same faith. But we, as people of faith, can ask how true this vision is. Each day we are challenged to look beyond the hurt, pain, hatred, and lack of concern for others which surround our daily existence.

Our faith teaches us that life is worth living and that each of us can make a difference. Visions of peace correspond to the deepest longings of the human heart. The prophets lived in the real world and were just as pained by its hate and injustices as we are, but the beginning of change comes with hope and vision. And forgiveness and repentance must be a part of our daily living.

A vision of peace on earth is the beginning of making it happen. The way we live must anticipate its promise. Every attempt to see the good in others brings us closer to that reality. The many recent events of hatred and taking of life can test our hope, but it can never destroy it. We must never let this happen.

Advent always gives us a promise of a new world. Hope and vision help to bring us there. Yes, life is worth living and we must always journey together.

Fr. Matthew Hawkins

We are beginning a new liturgical year, but some things never change. They haven't changed in the past 2,000 years, such as the joys

and frustrations of living together as a community of faith. Recently, a group of parishioners was asked to envision the future of their parish and what they thought their parish's mission ought to be. They were asked what they thought was the most challenging aspect of fulfilling Christ's mission in their parish. They were asked what would make the most significant difference in the life of their parish. They were asked what they thought the greatest need was among parish members. Finally, they were asked what they thought the greatest stumbling blocks were in moving forward as a parish.

We should all reflect on these questions, especially during Advent. We should also consider the opportunities, gifts, and graces our parishes offer. How would you answer these questions? When I thought about how I would answer them, the Apostle Paul's work with congregations 2,000 years ago came to mind. Some things never change.

In 1992, Ignatius Press published a short volume by the theologian Hans Urs Von Balthasar titled *Paul Struggles with His Congregation*. The book draws upon Paul's letters to the early Church in Corinth, Galatia, and Colossae and the letter to the Hebrews from an unknown author. Parish life was centered on work (social ministry), the word (sacred scripture), and the sacrament (the Holy Eucharist).

The message was clear in Paul's letters to the early Church and the letter from an unknown author to the Hebrews: the solution to a church or parish's problems was to deepen their spiritual life. This solution was not entirely "other-worldly"; it was manifested in physical and material interactions

between church members.

Paul called on early churches to participate in the death and resurrection of Christ. Sacramentally, we do this through the rites of baptism and the Eucharist. Liturgically, we do this through the words of sacred scripture. Above all, we do this when we realize that the Cross is not punishment but redemption. We are invited to die to ourselves, so we can live in Christ. Paul tells us that no church or parish can thrive unless it embraces the Cross. The Cross entails dying to oneself and entering into a Trinitarian relationship.

We acknowledge that the Holy Spirit guides the Church and therefore guides our parish. We also acknowledge that the Church, our parish, is the Body of Christ, composed of many parts but fulfilled in One Body and One Spirit. We never encounter Christ or the Holy Spirit without encountering God the Father. This Trinitarian formula is at the core of the Christian experience and our parish's identity. Our participation in the inner life of the Trinity is impossible apart from entering into the death and resurrection of Christ through baptism and the Eucharist.

Moreover, a deep sense of Spirituality is essential for a parish to flourish. The elements of this spirituality are scriptural, sacramental, and prophetic, bearing witness to Christ in the larger community. It provides charitable services and social ministry, and it is cruciform, embracing the Cross so that we can enter into the mystery.

This spirituality must underlie the life of our parish this Advent. It will empower parishes to fulfill God's mission. According to the Apostle Paul, it is essential to make a difference in parish life. Without it, a parish will not be able to draw people to Christ, and those who remain will break up into factionalism.

Our struggle today does not differ from the struggles in Paul's day. A parish must be a place where people go to encounter Christ. During Advent, we become aware of how long the world has waited for this encounter.

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.

DIOCESAN
Catholic Life Every Day

Help us reach and inform our parishioners with weekly communication efforts

EITC/OSTC 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

SISTERS
of ST. FRANCIS
of the Neumann Communities
House of Discernment

THE WILSON GROUP INC.
Host to Post Workflow Solutions Provider

Tina Clark
Account Executive

tclark@thewilsongroup.com
o: 412.586.7191 | c: 412.980.4975
147 Delta Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15238

SHARP **FP**
Authorized Dealer

www.thewilsongroup.com

